KEEP STIMULUS FUNDS FLOWING: MAYORS, PG 7

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Concert raises $115K for Haiti relief

SUPPORT Fundraising for Samaritan's Purse Canada's disaster-relief work in earthquake-stricken Haiti got a huge boost after a benefit concert in Calgary Wednesday evening.

Organizers say more than $115,000 was raised at the Centre Street Church event that featured Christian musicians from across Western Canada.

"The outpouring of support that we received from this is truly a representation of the giving nature of Calgarians and of Canadians," said Fred Weiss, executive director of Samaritan's Purse Canada, after the "We Must Do Something" concert.

The musicians included two-time Juno Award-winner Steve Bell, plus Carolyn Arends and Raylene Scarrott, among others.

METRO CALGARY

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 6, 8, 9 & 28

Flames fizzle **Drop 6th in a row**

LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calgary Flames' Dustin Boyd is knocked off his skates into Chicago Blackhawks goalie Antti Niemi during second-period NHL hockey action in Calgary on Thursday. The Blackhawks beat the Flames 3-1. Story, page 12

Sext ed for teens

Some schools to teach program on better texting practices

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

"We're implementing the program in a number of our schools ... I think this is another logical step in making sure our students are safe."
Janet Corsten, Calgary Catholic School Board

Wut r u wearing?

Teen "sexting" and the inevitable embarrassment that follows it will hopefully be a thing of the past as Calgary schools are getting in on a new Canadian website educating teens on safe texting practices.

The website is set to roll out its pilot phase amid growing concerns about young people sending sexual messages and nude photos via text, with 100 Grade 7 classrooms across Canada participating. The full site is slated to launch in September.

Spokespersons for both the Calgary Board of Education and Calgary Catholic School Board confirmed a handful of prospective schools in each system are participating in the pilot project initiated by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection.

"We're implementing the program in a number of our schools, but we're not sure which ones or how many yet. I think this is another logical step in making sure our students are safe," Catholic spokesperson Janet Corsten said.

CBE spokesperson Ted Flitton said the sexting initiative is only meant to complement their already comprehensive "Digital Citizenship" program.

"Our program is extensive and educates on all forms of technology, not just texting. We applaud the (sexting) program, but we also feel we have a comprehensive program in place," he said, adding their program runs from kindergarten to Grade 12.

The website is partnered with the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association on textED.ca. The site will provide educational information on the risks of text messaging, as well as safety strategies and guidelines to follow when using technology.

Wildrose Alliance mulls over rebranding

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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POLITICS What's in a name?

The Wildrose Alliance has mused about rebranding its logo and website, and even contemplated a name change, though it's not likely a new name is in the works for the party, according to communications director Shaun Howard.

"I can't say absolutely rule out anything, but I can say it's highly unlikely," he said, adding the Wildrose Alliance has become a Coke/Coca-Cola-type brand.

"Some people call us Wildrose, some people call us Alliance, some people call us Wildrose Alliance. But like a brand, they know where we are."

The question pops up every now and then to leader Danielle Smith, Howard said, but the name has become well-known.

"We're going to be looking at changing the logo and the website needs a revamp, but it's just ordinary branding maintenance," he added.

Mount Royal University political scientist Duane Bratt said even if the party were to change to a one-word name, it would be an easy move.

"Wildrose is a much simpler name to get across. A name change would keep them in the news and it's easy enough to do," he said.

News on the Move

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Vancouver Games

Countdown to 2010
Follow Metro as we bring you daily coverage leading up to the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.
• Today — Brydon's last hurrah, page 14

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ScanLife

Local

City behind on tree pickup

The City of Calgary says the Christmas Tree curbside pickup program has been so successful this year they are actually running behind picking up the trees. City Waste Services spokesperson Lindsay Lofthouse says the remaining trees will be picked up today and next week. METRO CALGARY

GPS tested on sanding trucks

DARREN KRAUSE
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Imagine the citizens of Calgary being one click away from finding out where city sanding trucks are, and if their primary commuting route was clear.

While not there quite yet, the city's roads department is currently piloting a project having four of its sanders equipped with GPS, according to transportation spokesperson Sean Somers.

Somers explains the $80,000 venture allows road maintenance to not only see where the sanders have been, but also to have satellite control over the location and quantity of salt and sand delivered on city streets. "What these GPS sanders allow us to do ... is disperse the right amount of material in exactly the same place on that route," said Somers.

Having this control can prevent over-use of material, which could save tax dollars and curb environmental damage, Somers said.

The system also allows the roads maintenance department to see the routes covered, the number of passes and the time taken – all information that may be of interest to the public.

Getting this kind of information to Calgarians is what Ald. Brian Pincott hoped for with a current review on allowing open source data.

"It isn't just so people have access to see where trucks are — it's having raw data that citizens can manipulate and use themselves to come up with different things," said Pincott, acknowledging related privacy issues.

"I'm hoping the open data team can have a look at things like this pilot — can we release (the data)?"

Somers said providing the info online has been explored, but Freedom of Information and Privacy concerns stymied that effort.

Sunridge Mall **Kicking off a fundraiser**

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

Energy 101.5's Tripp West and Cardelle Szego get some help from Calgary Stampeders kicker Burke Dales to raise money for victims of Haiti at Sunridge Mall yesterday during their Help Haiti Now campaign.

Cop charged with assaulting taxi rider

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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CHARGES A Calgary police officer has been handed assault charges after allegedly striking a female taxi passenger a year ago during an on-duty incident.

A six-year member has been charged with common assault in relation to the incident where a taxi driver asked for his assistance with a domestic situation between a woman and another person in the back of a taxi.

Calgary police deputy chief Al Redford confirmed the incident occurred at 2:30 a.m. downtown on Jan. 23, 2009, but said due to a backlog at the Crown's office, the charges were laid Thursday. "(The officer) was in fact fuelling up his own vehicle when the taxi driver approached him for help," Redford said, adding at some point during the incident the woman was struck.

While police offered limited details because the matter is before the courts, the officer remains on administrative duties and his name will not be released.

The charges come just a week after unrelated charges against three other Calgary police officers in two separate incidents.

News in brief

DRUGS After receiving tips from the public, Calgary police have arrested a man in connection with a $50,000 drug seizure in a northwest home on Tuesday. Police allege the man was found in a home with a kilogram of cocaine, 200 grams of marijuana and electronic scales and packaging material. Anthony Paul Dionisi, 27, was taken into custody without incident.

HAITI HELP After a proposal was put forward by the cities of Calgary and Montreal, 22 of Canada's largest cities are on board to throw unanimous support behind Haiti. The Big City Mayors Caucus of Canada unanimously endorsed the proposal that will help provide assistance to Haiti and the victims of the earthquake. Under the plan, cities will create a "pool of expertise" to help rebuild. METRO CALGARY

metronews.ca WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs Kartik Krishnayer tells It's Called Football what to expect in the 2011 season and what he really thinks of Bob Lenarduzzi.

Following news stories on Twitter...

CalgaryTweets

@ToriePeterson There's a guy on the train who's coordinated his shoelaces with his hair colour - orange. So awesome. #yyc

@Dawnesaurus #LAME !!! Just spoke to Amy at Anthropologie's head office who confirmed that #YYC is NOT getting an anthropologie store. So upset right now

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CALGARY OBITUARIES

CalgaryObits.com notes the following deaths in our community:

ARLETTE, Deborah
ARNAULT, Marc Gerard Michael
AYER, Mary Louise
BEAMISH, Elvamae (Mae)
BELYEA, Michael "Mike" Earle
BENDICSON, Charles (Chuck)
BLAIR, Lois Anne Wedderburn
BLAKE, Glen Lee Matthew
BOISVERT, Donald Neil (Don)
BROWN, Barbara Jean
CLARK, Kenneth Russell
CUSANO, Maria Teresa (nee Pietraroia)
DAVIS, Charles (Chuck)
DOCKERY, William (Bill)
FONG, Garry You Ming
FRASER, Bernice (Bea) Florence Frances
GORDON, John Cuthbert
GREER, Gladys L
HOLLOHAN, Brian
KENNIE, Garnet
KOSTEL, Walter (Wally) Andrew
LAIRD, Robert William (Rob)
LEVESQUE, Steven (Steve) Guy
MAHLBERG, Ronald Wayne
MAHONEY, Rosella Marie Louise (nee Laisnez)
MAJNARIC, Ivan John (Cico)
McCOY, Gerald Edmond
McMURRAY, Frederick James (Jim)
PAYNE, Lois Emma
RICHARDSON, Edward Charles
SCHWEERTMAN, Bruce Albert
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WOJCIK, Valerie Lyda Doreen

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Blast likely caused by natural gas: Officials
Fire officials have determined an explosion at 1431 Pennsburg Dr. SE was likely caused by natural gas and are continuing to investigate why the explosion occurred. The damage is estimated to be $250,000. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Capturing views on poverty

DARREN KRAUSE
darren.krause@metronews.ca

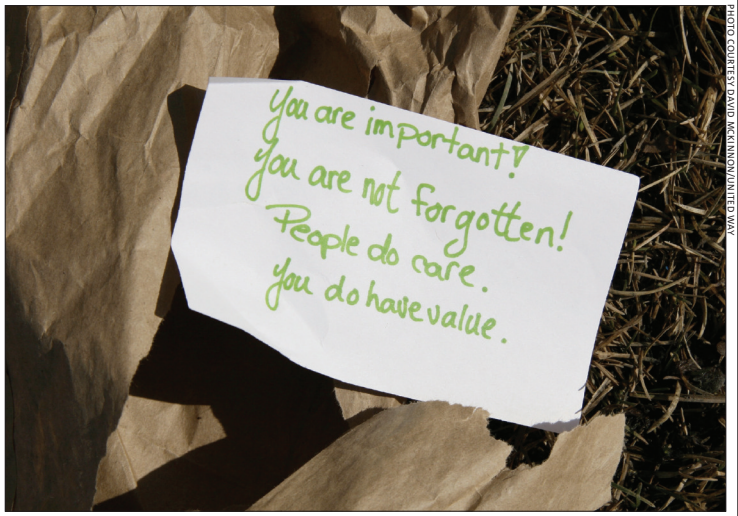

PHOTO COURTESY DAVID MCKINNON/UNITED WAY

This photo by David McKinnon, entitled You Do Have Value, is one of the photos taken during last year's 2335 Urban Exposure project that looked at affordable housing through a photographer's lens.

Views on poverty in Calgary are as diverse as each individual. But how would that perspective appear through the lens of a camera?

The United Way of Calgary and Area's 2335 group is inviting Calgarians in their 20s and 30s to explore their community through the Urban Exposure photography expedition that delves into poverty through imagery collected by participants.

"We take a few people and we give them a really deep and rich experience and opportunity ... we push them outside their comfort zone and as a consequence they have stories to tell and things to say and they've learned and they can go on and engage their family, friends and colleagues," said Rhiannon MacDonnell, co-chair for 2335 and project facilitator.

MacDonnell said photography is a great medium because the captured images can make communicating it to others much easier.

Participants volunteer with various social agencies and get an opportunity to visually capture how those organizations affect the lives of thousands of Calgarians every day.

MacDonnell said this age group is aware and engaged and needs an outlet to create change.

"The real opportunity for this generation is to start acting and to give our time money and spirit to actually creating positive change in the world we see around us," said MacDonnell.

Today is the last day to apply — and if interested, Calgarians in their 20s and 30s can visit calgaryunitedway.org/volunteer.

Man convicted of bilking 35 investors deported

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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CRIME Bilking $615,000 from investors in a Ponzi scheme not only landed an elderly man jail time — he has now been deported from Canada, according to border officials.

James Hester, 69, was sentenced to three years in jail last January for his role in the Ponzi scheme fraud that ripped off 35 investors. Hester was deported by the Canada Border Services Agency on Wednesday, according to spokesperson Lisa White.

Hester was one of three men deported from Calgary this week but for privacy reasons officials couldn't disclose where he or the other two men were deported. "I think it sends a message that those who willfully break our laws and endanger the safety of Canadians will be deported," White said.

Also deported were Sukhit Singh Sooch, 26, and Arvin Dizon, 32.

News in brief

FUNDING The second phase of renovations at the Westside Regional Recreation Centre got a cash injection, after the federal government pitched in $1 million through the Recreational Infrastructure program as a part of the Canada Economic Action Plan. The funds will be combined with $1.5 million each from the city and the province.

HEALTH "Flow beds" created in September 2009 at the Alberta Children's Hospital Emergency Department, creating a triage area for quick assessment of child patients, was successful in cutting wait times in half, said Alberta Health Services. Information released yesterday showed 200 children seen daily prior to the bed deployment could wait up to eight hours for care. With the flow beds during peak H1N1 waves, seeing 315 patients a day, the wait times averaged less than four hours, the AHS said.

METRO CALGARY

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DeVry Calgary

Beware of phone scam: Police
Calgary police are warning of a phone scam where callers pose as relatives or friends in need of cash after some sort of accident while abroad. METRO CALGARY

Citizens fear for park

Neighbours worry fire hall expansion may swallow space

DARREN KRAUSE
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Hundreds of footsteps are crunched into the snow of a popular inner-city park along 30 Avenue SW, surrounded by giant spruce trees, a few poplar, and a handful of smaller but mature trees.

To the south, along 14 Street SW, is the decades-old Fire Station No. 5 — a testament to the proud history of the firefighting brigade in the city's southwest, protecting the citizens of South Calgary, Mount Royal and the surrounding area.

With growing demand for services and with the increased size of equipment, it's time for No. 5 to expand.

Charles Gunn and his wife, Remy, who live across from the park and fire station, are worried a pending subdivision application that calls for a near tripling of the fire station's footprint will swallow the oft-used green space.

"Of the neighbours I talked to, most people are in agreement that it's important to take a serious look at how the park is used before paving over additional inner-city green space," said Gunn.

DARREN KRAUSE/METRO CALGARY

Lori Beattie, left, her son Oscar Dewing, front, and Charles and Remy Gunn live across from Fire Station No. 5 at 30 Avenue and 14 Street SW, and they hope consideration will be given to preserving the park behind them when the station looks to expand.

Calgary Fire Department Deputy Chief Greg Wilkes said the current station No. 5 was built for the capacity and risk of a 1950s community, not for today's current needs.

Wilkes also said the station planning is still in its infancy and extensive community consultation will occur — though the current location offers prime access to routes that allow for the best response times.

"If we don't consult the community, shame on us," said Wilkes, noting the department hasn't looked at alternative sites.

Resident Lori Beattie said another site along 14 Street SW five blocks north has derelict buildings and could be a prime spot for expansion.

She doesn't want to lose the park and hopes it can be preserved.

"If they go ahead, we can't get it back. It's gone," she said.

Proroguing protest slated for Saturday

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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POLITICS Armed with a petition and hopes of a reversal decision, a group of Calgarians Against Proroguing Parliament is rallying together for change.

Having used social media Twitter and Facebook, event organizer Scott Payne said over 500 people in the group are concerned with Prime Minister Stephen Harper's decision to suspend Parliament until after the Olympics.

"We're not happy with the decision and we feel that Harper is acting in an anti-democratic fashion," Payne said. "I think it's important people have a chance to get engaged and voice our concerns."

Payne and the group will deliver a signed petition to Harper's office in south Calgary on Saturday.

"In an ideal situation, the government would go back to work on Monday like they were supposed to. But we're not naive and know that likely won't happen."

Payne isn't sure how many people will attend the event, but he invited others out at 1 p.m. to Harper's riding office, which is located at 1,600-90th Ave. SW.

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Manitoba health officials defensive about Lesnar's bashing

Manitoba health officials are on the defensive after a bashing from UFC heavyweight champion Brock Lesnar. The American mixed martial arts star says he received "Third World" health-care treatment in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Haitians looking to escape

More than two million people still homeless: Authorities

Haiti Crisis

Crowds continue to gather outside the Canadian Embassy in Port-au-Prince — Haitians hoping to escape the city more than a week after it was rocked by a massive earthquake.

Authorities say a staggering two million people are homeless while thousands are still without a steady supply of food and water.

Outside the capital, members of Canada's Disaster Assistance Response Team are in the quake-ravaged town of Jacmel, while Canadian soldiers in the town of Leogane are continuing efforts to help.

With heavy equipment coming from Port-au-Prince, Canada and Jamaica, DART hopes to be pumping potable water in Jacmel within the next few days.

In Leogane, a contingent of troops from HMCS Halifax continues to treat patients for secondary infections and to stem the spread of disease, still a primary concern.

The task of rebuilding Leogane will likely fall to members of the Royal 22e Regiment from CFB Valcartier, who are already arriving in the region.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A Canadian Armed Forces truck prepares to be loaded on the MV Wloclawek Thursday, at the Quebec City port. Military vehicles, including water purifying units and bulldozers, are being shipped to Haiti for a humanitarian mission.

By the numbers

- Canadians confirmed dead: 14
- Canadians missing: 321
- Canadians located: 1,867 up from 1,727 the day before.
- Canadians believed to be in Haiti: more than 6,000
- Total death toll in Haiti: Roughly 200,000, estimate by the European Union, quoting Haitian officials.

G8 summit might have climate talks

TREATY Environment Minister Jim Prentice says he's feeling international pressure to put climate change high on the agenda at the G20 and G8 summits this summer.

And while he's not exactly a champion of the idea quite yet, he's not saying No either.

Canada is dedicated to turning last month's Copenhagen climate accord into an internationally binding treaty well before the end of the year, Prentice said in an interview.

"It's an agreement that reflects Canada's principles, so we very much want to see it converted into an international treaty over the course of 2010," he said. "Anything we can do to advance that is important."

But whether the G8 and G20 summits Canada is hosting at the end of June will serve to push along the process depends on how talks in the next few months go, he added.

Jim Prentice

"We'll be part of the drafting process to work it up to an international treaty. How far we will be by the time of the G20 meeting remains to be determined."

The Copenhagen Accord is a three-page statement of principle that urges countries to limit global warming, make commitments to cut emissions, and promises financing to help developing countries deal with climate change.

The accord is not binding, nor is it detailed. It falls far short of the hopes of the European Union and of environmentalists. Even the United Nations chief on climate change expressed disappointment this week.

But for the Harper government, the accord is a "turning point" in how the world approaches climate change, and is worth pushing into practice as soon as possible before any momentum is lost, Prentice said.

Prentice recognizes that the EU has been advocating for Canada to highlight climate change at the summits, to move the Copenhagen accord ahead. And he's aware that the G20 summit will group the world's biggest emitters, as well as key drivers of the Copenhagen accord: The United States, China, India, Brazil and South Africa.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Troops killed four civilians in 2009

AFGHANISTAN Canadian soldiers struggling to contain the Taliban insurgency in southern Afghanistan killed four civilians last year, according to military figures obtained by The Canadian Press. The deaths occurred when the soldiers felt compelled to open fire during what is known as an escalation of force.

"There were three incidents of escalation of force that led to four civilian deaths caused by CF soldiers," the military said. "That being said, in all three cases, the investigations determined that the rules of engagement were followed." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Help starts trickling into Haiti nursing homes, but for some it's too late. Scan this code for the story.

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Bishop named to replace man charged for possessing child porn
A new bishop will be installed in a Nova Scotia diocese next week, months after the former bishop was charged with possessing child pornography. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Infrastructure funds still needed: Mayors

Say stimulus funds will help bring down debt

Canada's big city mayors are urging the federal government to keep billions of dollars in infrastructure money flowing as the country enters a new era of restraint.

They want Ottawa to extend the $4-billion federal infrastructure stimulus fund for at least six months past the current March 2011 deadline — and consider more funding even as it looks to save money elsewhere.

They're also urging the government to resist the urge to cut other programs — including the gas tax fund and GST rebates — that help municipalities build and repair roads, bridges, sewer systems and other infrastructure.

The mayors argue that spending on infrastructure will actually help the government erase the $56-billion deficit racked up since last year's recession, creating jobs, spurring economic growth and generating revenue to fill depleted federal coffers.

"The best way to fight federal deficits is to have people working and paying income and sales taxes," said Toronto Mayor David Miller.

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calgary Mayor Dave Bronconnier, left, greets Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Big City Mayors Caucus in Ottawa on Thursday.

Infrastructure projects to improve things like public transit not only create construction jobs, he said, they help foster a more positive, productive environment for business, "which in itself creates jobs."

Regina Mayor Pat Fiacco agreed that infrastructure funding "more than pays for itself" and must not be sacrificed on the altar of restraint.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

VANOC plays hardball with ads

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

RIGHTS Another kind of competition is playing out ahead of the Olympics.

Opponents don suits instead of jerseys, but the game is ultimately the same: Strategy must be honed and the goal is to earn gold. When play becomes unfair, someone cries foul.

VANOC has steadily pursued those they charge are capitalizing off the largest sporting event in the country by misleading consumers into believing they're affiliated.

But VANOC's overbearing approach might be causing more trouble than it prevents and leaving it in a public relations muddle, observers suggest.

Scotiabank last week became the latest in a series of corporate brands to be chastised for launching a marketing campaign VANOC says threatens to undermine the value of Games sponsorship.

"You're basically seeing businesses saying 'screw you,'" said Lindsay Meredith, who teaches marketing at Simon Fraser University. Meredith added VANOC isn't wrong to finger the various companies on their tactics.

Vancouver was the backdrop when Scotiabank unveiled a photo and story-submitting contest that uses images of fans in red and white cheering an amorphous sporting event. A company spokesman denied the campaign is trying to associate with the Olympics, adding he's confident it worked within organizer-issued guidelines.

VANOC has exclusive Canadian marketing rights to Olympic brands until Dec. 21, 2012, which only official sponsors are allowed to market products under.

Royal Bank of Canada is the official bank Games sponsor and has been since 1947.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Court rules in favour of farmer in raw milk case

DAIRY An Ontario farmer raised a glass of milk in celebration outside court Thursday after being found not guilty of 19 charges related to selling unpasteurized milk.

Michael Schmidt, who operates a raw milk co-op, defended himself last year against the charges for dispensing milk straight from the cow.

Schmidt was charged under the Health Protection and Promotion Act and the Milk Act after an armed raid by about two dozen officers and government officials at his farm in 2006.

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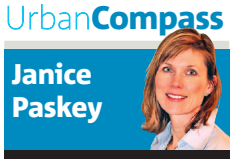

Bill Morrison knows where to find many of his Highland Park neighbours: In Strathmore. Or Calgary's burbs.

After a methadone clinic opened, and traffic increased, families left this community at McKnight and Centre streets for other parts.

Bowing to community pressure, the methadone clinic closed. But now Highland Park faces a drug addictions centre to be built on an old lumber yard.

There are homes nearby; residents are worried about safety. "We want to be a place where people want to raise families, kids can walk to school," says Morrison, a 39-year resident. He heads the Highland Park planning committee. It's already an area with a lot of industrial businesses, taxis, and bus centres.

Fresh Start Addictions Centre came to Morrison and his group, along with the Greenview before breaking ground.

Would they face protest?

Instead, the two groups began to hammer out the city's first "Good Neighbour Agreement." After watching Scarboro demolish plans for a halfway house (and propel John Mar to alderman), the city knew it needed to get community support.

In the end, the community ensured that no detox would take place on site, there would be underground parking, and there would be an outdoor patio for residents to gather. The number of clients was set, as were the hours of operation.

"It did lead to communication. There was a positive element to it," says Morrison. Highland's contract is on the city's website. There's only one omission. The city doesn't sign the agreement or help with enforcement. "The city is party to this and did impose this land use, it should sign the agreement," Morrison argues.

A few miles west in Triwood, Tom Banks found himself in a maelstrom after McMan Youth & Family Services bought an apartment building for "youth at risk." Banks is the community president and residents were fearful.

Once again, the city stepped in with a Good Neighbour Agreement facilitator. The two sides agreed no resident would be evicted, and McMan residents would have jobs or be in school. It would not be a treatment facility. Triwood agreed to give the young adults free community memberships.

And the lack of city signature? "These agreements may not be legally binding, but they carry a lot of political weight," says Banks.

And in Highland Park, there's a second Good Neighbour negotiation. It's with the landlord of the methadone clinic.

Janice Paskey teaches at Mount Royal University and is a volunteer with Westwood Hockey.

Views

Canada pitches in to help Haiti tonight

Marketplace

I live in Vancouver and sometimes take the bus to work through an area known as the Downtown Eastside — what's called "the poorest postal code in North America." Not a lot of people with a lot of money ride that bus.

So imagine my surprise this week, hearing passengers talk about how they want to send money to Haiti, devastated by the Jan. 12 earthquake.

"I owe Visa a whack of money," said a middle-aged woman, dressed in a slightly dirty coat, missing a button. "But I'm gonna put a donation to Haiti on my credit card. They could use the money."

An older man joined in, saying he had a collection agency tracking him down, but he was putting a cheque for $25 in the mail to help people in Haiti.

These are people with very little money figuring out how to help others far worse off than themselves. It says a lot about the spirit of our country. Yes, our household debt hit a record high last year — for every $100 of income, Canadians owe $145 in debt.

And, yet, people are opening their wallets to lend a hand to Haiti. The Red Cross says Canadians have donated almost $36 million and made another $8 million in pledges. Other charities are reporting big donations, too. World Vision says aid is coming in faster than during the 2004 tsunami. So far, it has raised more than $5 million.

Tonight, Marketplace, the program I regularly co-host on CBC Television, will be pre-empted: CBC Television, CTV and Global Television are collaborating to produce Canada For Haiti, a one-hour, commercial-free special featuring a star-studded lineup of Canadian talent. Also broadcasting tonight is the U.S. telethon Hope For Haiti Now, hosted by George Clooney.

Programming begins tonight at 7 local ET/CT/PT and 8 local AT/MT.

I hope you'll tune in and donate if you can. Who knows? Maybe next week on the bus you'll be talking about what you did to help.

Erica Johnson co-hosts CBC Television's investigative program, Marketplace, pre-empted tonight for a Haiti fundraiser, but normally seen at 8:30 p.m.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Meteorite hits doctor's office
Doctors at a small Virginia medical practice got a big surprise when a tennis ball-sized meteorite punched a hole through their roof Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

123 Haitian children arrive in Netherlands

Haiti Crisis

Enveloped in his new mother's embrace, four-year-old Jersen Silvester Eefting gazed wide-eyed around a hotel lobby at the end of an 11-hour flight that whisked him from the devastation of Haiti to his new home in the Netherlands.

"It feels magnificent," said Roel Eefting as he videoed the newly adopted son he had met minutes earlier.

Jersen was one of 123 children, aged from two months to seven years, flown to the Netherlands Thursday. They arrived on a plane chartered by the Dutch government and two adoption agencies to airlift children out of Haiti to new lives in the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman believed to be with a Dutch adoption association carries two Haitian children Thursday after arriving in the Netherlands.

None of the children was hurt in last week's earthquake. But Macky Schouten, head of the Netherlands Adoption Foundation, said it was difficult getting them from their orphanages in Haiti to the choked Port-Au-Prince airport.

"They had to come from different houses in a situation that was very dangerous," she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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McNamee/Getty Images for Save the Children

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Embassy launches Facebook page

The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad is looking for Iraqi friends on its new Facebook page. The embassy launched the page to reach out to Iraqi youth. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prayer ritual forces down plane

PHILADELPHIA A teenage airplane passenger using an Orthodox Jewish prayer instrument caused a misunderstanding that led the captain to divert the Kentucky-bound plane to Philadelphia and prompted a visit from a bomb squad.

A 17-year-old boy on US Airways Express Flight 3079 travelling from New York to Louisville was using tefillin, a set of black boxes attached to leather straps and containing biblical passages.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gitmo deadline passes

GUANTANAMO As U.S. President Barack Obama neared his self-imposed deadline to close the Guantanamo Bay prison, the Justice Department offices of the terrorist detention task force was bustling, not with lawyers, but construction workers tearing apart the walls, ripping out any trace of its secretive work, although Obama's goal to shutter the prison is still far off.

The staffers were gone, having completed recommendations on detention policy.

On Wednesday, the Guantanamo task force made its final recommendations for all of the 198 remaining detainees awaiting transfer, trial or further detention.

Attorney General Eric Holder has reviewed the bulk of those recommendations and decided that the most feared detainee — the self-declared mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks Khalid Sheikh Mohammed — and four henchmen should face trial in New York.

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In this 2009 file photo, Rielle Hunter leaves court with her child.

Edwards admits to fathering child

Former U.S. Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards finally came forward Thursday to admit that he fathered a child with a woman that he hired before his second failed White House bid.

Edwards, a former U.S. senator from North Carolina and 2004 vice-presidential candidate, confirmed this in a statement released to The Associated Press, after initially denying that he'd fathered a child during his affair with videographer Rielle Hunter.

The statement came as the second birthday of Frances Quinn Hunter approaches and just days before a new book about the scandal is due. It was written by Andrew Young, the Edwards campaign aide who initially said he was the baby's father.

"I am Quinn's father," the former senator declared in his statement. He admitted it was wrong to have denied that and vowed to do "everything in my power" to support the girl. He also said he hoped that "one day, when she understands, she will forgive me."

Edwards

Hunter's lawyer, Michael Critchley, said the admission is "good for everyone" and amounted to a public acknowledgment of something that was known privately.

He said Hunter had no immediate comment.

Frances was born Feb. 27, 2008, indicating that she was conceived in the middle of 2007, several months after Hunter stopped working for Edwards in the early stages of the battle for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination.

Edwards admitted the affair, but denied he was the father of the child until now. He claimed the affair ended in 2006. Young initially claimed he was the child's father shortly before the 2008 presidential primary contests began.

Word that Young was naming Edwards as the father first came when details of his book proposal were reported by The New York Times in September.

In an excerpt of an ABC News interview released Thursday, Young says that Edwards asked him to arrange and fake a paternity test.

"Get a doctor to fake the DNA results," Young said Edwards told him. "And he asked me ... to steal a diaper from the baby so he could secretly do a DNA test to find out if this (was) indeed his child."

Edwards' wife of more than 30 years, Elizabeth, has been battling incurable cancer since 2007.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. commander looks to cut down Afghan night raids

AFGHANISTAN The top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan plans to tighten the rules on night raids, The Associated Press has learned, in a new step to curb public anger over perceived violations against civilians.

Such raids have emerged as the No. 1 complaint among Afghans after Gen. Stanley McChrystal curbed the use of airstrikes and other weaponry last year.

NATO spokesman Rear Adm. Gregory Smith told the AP a new directive would be issued soon to set down new rules for night raids.

"It addresses the issue that's probably the most socially irritating thing that we do and that is entering people's homes at night," he said Wednesday. He would not elaborate pending a formal announcement.

The U.S.-led force has become increasingly sensitive to complaints by Afghan civilians as part of a renewed effort to win support among the public and lure people away from the Taliban. Last year McChrystal curbed the use of airpower and heavy weapons if civilians could be put at risk.

Smith said complaints about civilian deaths from airstrikes have dropped sharply. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. economy expected to gain momentum
A forecast of future U.S. economic activity jumped 1.1 per cent in December, a private research group said Thursday, suggesting that economic growth in the United States could pick up this spring. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Recovery to pick up: BoC

Canada's economic recovery is becoming more solidly entrenched with the private sector beginning to play an increasingly pivotal role in leading the country out of recession, the Bank of Canada said Thursday in its latest policy report.

In a mildly upbeat assessment, the central bank's quarterly outlook contains some upward revisions for growth in the United States, China, Europe and Japan that should help Canada's battered exporters and manufacturing sector in the next two years.

Economy grows

• Canada's economy likely grew by 3.3 per cent in the last three months of 2009, the Bank of Canada says. For 2010, it will advance by 2.9 per cent, followed by a 3.5 per cent pickup in 2011.

And it says Canada's economy will grow faster going forward than expected, in part because it got off to such a slow start last summer.

Overall, the central bank appears more optimistic about the sustainability of the recovery around the world, although it also cautions that risks of a stall in recovery remain.

There is also some hope, the bank adds, conditions may continue to improve better than projected.

"It is thus possible that the recovery in global demand could be more vigorous than projected, resulting in stronger external demand for Canadian exports," the bank judges.

In Canada, it adds: "Economic growth is expected to become more solidly entrenched over the projection period as self-sustaining growth in private demand takes hold."

The analysis is broadly similar to what the bank said last October, when it last issued a comprehensive forecast on the economy, but the tone is brighter at the margins and the danger signals less frequent.

"The global economic recovery is under way," Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney said at a news conference following the central bank's latest quarterly report on monetary policy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

ECONOMY The number of Canadian individuals and businesses who filed for bankruptcy fell for the second straight month in November, but remained higher than they were in the same month of 2008. The total number of bankruptcies declined by four per cent to 8,878 in November compared to 9,245 in October, according to figures released Thursday by the federal Superintendent of Bankruptcy.

LOSSES Canadian life sciences company MDS Inc. issued preliminary results Thursday, including a US $19-million loss from its continuing operations and a $58-million loss overall in the fourth quarter. Toronto-based MDS is in the process of selling most of its remaining business units, but will keep MDS Nordion, best known for supplying medical isotopes to customers used around the world. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Fast food **The King in Moscow**

MIKHAIL METZEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman walks by a poster announcing the opening of Burger King's first outlet in Russia at a shopping mall Thursday in northwest Moscow. The American-owned fast food chain will open another outlet in downtown Moscow on Monday. Main rival McDonald's operates 235 restaurants throughout Russia.

GM's Opel to cut 8,300 jobs

UNEMPLOYMENT General Motor Co.'s Opel unit will cut 8,300 jobs across Europe, including 4,000 in Germany, and close a plant in Antwerp, Belgium — casualties of the "tough reality" of a shrinking European auto market.

Opel head Nick Reilly said Thursday that the Antwerp plant had to go, with the loss of more than 2,300 jobs, because the company needs to shed 20 per cent of its manufacturing capacity. That's because far fewer cars are being sold as a result of the recession.

"We have to take a plant out and unfortunately it's Antwerp," Reilly said at a press conference in Brussels. "It is the tough reality of the current business environment."

The plant has already shrunk from employing 7,000 workers at its peak to around a third of that today. It produces the Astra three-door, convertible and station-wagon versions almost all of them for delivery outside Belgium.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Mariners, Hernandez reach five-year deal
Felix Hernandez and the Seattle Mariners have completed a US $78 million, five-year deal that averts an arbitration hearing and keeps the young ace under contract through 2014. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Apology for crotch-grab prank

An Italian television channel has apologized for a prank in which a female presenter attempted to grab David Beckham, left, between the legs. The AC Milan midfielder was visibly angered when Elena Di Cioccio, who fronts the popular show Le Iene (The Hyenas) on Italia Uno, made her move while the soccer player was being interviewed by another person Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

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Sports in brief

NFL Wade Phillips is sticking around as coach of the Dallas Cowboys for two more years. Team owner Jerry Jones said Thursday that Phillips is signed through the 2011 season.

BASEBALL Joe Blanton and the Philadelphia Phillies have agreed to a US $24-million, three-year contract that avoided a salary arbitration hearing next month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

OTTAWA 3 St. Louis 2
Tampa Bay 3 Toronto 2 (OT)
Carolina 5 Atlanta 2
Columbus 3 Boston 2
Detroit 4 Minnesota 3 (SO)
N.Y. Islanders 2 Florida 1 (SO)
Philadelphia 2 N.Y. Rangers 0
Washington 6 Pittsburgh 3
Nashville at Phoenix
Chicago at Calgary
Dallas at Vancouver
Buffalo at Los Angeles
Anaheim at San Jose

NBA

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Cleveland 93 L.A. Lakers 87
L.A. Clippers at Denver

LARRY MACDOUGAL / THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chicago Blackhawk Marian Hossa battles for the puck with Calgary's Craig Conroy during first period action in Calgary on Thursday. The Blackhawks beat the Flames 3-1.

Hawks douse Flames

NHL RESULTS

Blackhawks 3 Flames 1

Ben Eager scored the go-ahead goal at 5:52 of the third period Thursday night as the Chicago Blackhawks beat the struggling Calgary Flames 3-1.

With the game tied 1-1, Chicago went ahead for good when Tomas Kopecky's shot deflected off Eager's foot as he skated towards the net, and Flames goaltender Miikka Kiprusoff couldn't make the stop.

It's the fifth goal of the season for Eager, and his second in as many games against Calgary.

Patrick Kane and Duncan Keith, into an empty net, also scored for Chicago (35-12-4), which entered the night two points back of the San Jose Sharks for first place in the Western Conference.

The Blackhawks are 3-1 halfway through a season-high eight-game road trip. They play Vancouver on Saturday night.

Chicago has won all three games in this year's season series and have won seven games in a row at the Pengrowth Saddledome since last losing on Nov. 22, 2006.

Jamie Lundmark scored the lone goal for Calgary (26-19-6), which has lost five straight in regulation and is winless in its last six.

The Flames are also winless in their last five home games (0-4-1). The sell-out crowd of 19,289 booed the Flames as they left the ice.

Calgary left-winger Nigel Dawes limped off the ice early in the first period and did not return. No update on his condition was given.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bernard gets some Olympic ink

TATTOOS It was a promise Cheryl Bernard figured she wouldn't have to keep.

The Calgary curler made a deal with teammate Cori Bartel that if they qualified for the Olympics they'd get tattoos to mark the achievement.

So when Bernard's rink won the Olympic trials in Edmonton last month, Bartel was quick to remind her skip about the agreement they'd made.

"It was probably two or three years ago when we started this process and Cori and I are actually the ones who kind of decided this is what we're going to do," Bernard said in an interview Thursday at her Calgary gym. "I don't know that I ever believed it would happen and Cori reminded me the minute we won."

The week after their victory, Bernard, Bartel and teammate Susan O'Connor headed to the tattoo parlour. The lone holdout was second Carolyn Darbyshire, whose daughter didn't want her to do it.

The three curlers now have the colourful Olympic rings and a small Maple Leaf branded on the inside of their forearms.

"I'm like, if I'm ever going to get a tattoo this is going to be the one I wanted," Bernard said. "It's something even my grandmother would approve of."

They're not the first Canadian curlers to get tattoos. Shannon Kleibrink and her teammates, who competed at the 2006 Games in Turin, had the rings and a Maple Leaf tattooed on their ankles.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BILL GRAVELAND / THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cheryl Bernard shows off her new Olympic tattoo.

CHRIS GRAYTHEN/GETTY IMAGES

The New Orleans Saints defensive players are a group known for their aggressive approach.

Saints' D all for taking risks

The ideas Gregg Williams covered in his first formal meeting with the Saints' defence had nothing to do with formations or coverages and everything to do with nastiness and fear.

"That was a defining moment as far as mindset," Saints linebacker Scott Shanle said, recalling a speech of about 30 minutes that Williams delivered back when off-season workouts began last spring. "This defence is the type of defence everybody in the NFL would want to play in."

> **"This defence is the type of defence everybody in the NFL would want to play in."**
> Scott Shanle, Saints linebacker

The Saints are not immune to giving up big plays and lots of yards. They ranked 25th in the regular season in yards allowed (357.8 per game), yielding more than 400 in a game six times this season.

Such statistics could be a problem with a quarterback like Brett Favre and the Minnesota Vikings visiting New Orleans on Sunday in the NFC championship game. Yet Williams said on Thursday that he doesn't worry about that.

The Saints' defence gives up yards because Williams and his players take an aggressive approach that sometimes means taking risks. The reward can be game-changing plays. The Saints were second in the NFL this season in turnovers with 39 on 26 interceptions and 13 fumble recoveries.

"That's a huge part of our success so far, being able to turn over the ball, being able to score when we do get the turnovers and change the game," defensive end Will Smith said.

The system has been a fantastic fit for veteran free safety Darren Sharper, who called Williams a "genius" as far back as training camp, before his nine regular season interceptions, three of which he returned for scores. New Orleans also had 35 sacks this season, an improvement of seven over the previous season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man U looks to retake Premier lead

SOCCER With its rivals in FA Cup action this weekend, Manchester United has the opportunity to address its recent disappointing form and retake the Premier League lead.

Defending champion United can leapfrog Arsenal and Chelsea, which both continue to chase a Wembley final appearance with FA Cup matches at Preston and Stoke, if it beats a Hull side it defeated 3-1 a month ago.

United, which has won just one of its last four matches, lost 2-1 to local rival Manchester City in the Carling Cup on Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE

Perennial sad sack Bobcats are suddenly NBA contenders after adopting new acquisition Stephen Jackson's swagger. Scan this code for the story.

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Women hit podium

Maëlle Ricker and Dominique Maltais hit the snowboardcross podium Thursday, while fellow Canadian Mike Robertson officially punched his ticket to the Vancouver Winter Games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

‘Speed Queen’ makes her last hurrah

I call the hotel in northern Italy and the man at reception says he’ll find Emily Brydon right away.

“Everyone knows her,” he claims.

There’s chuckling and I make out Emily’s voice as she scurries to the phone leaving her ski buddies for a moment. No doubt they’ll pardon the interruption and anxiously wait to hear the finish of her latest tall tale.

Brydon has been an enormous part of the Canadian ski story for more than a decade. She’s a constant contender and stood on the World Cup podium nine times. That’s more than any female in this country’s alpine history with the exception of Nancy Greene, Laurie Graham and Betsy Clifford.

That’s exceptional company to keep.

Then again, Emily Brydon is an exceptional woman — larger than life some might say.

Her third Olympics in 2010 will be her last as she moves on with a career that includes the operation of a children’s foundation near her home in Fernie, B.C. She also wants to work with Right to Play and make more trips to Africa to help desperate kids. She saw a lot in Ghana when she went there last — it opened her eyes.

ALEXIS BOICHARD/AGENCE ZOOM/GETTY IMAGES

Canadian skier Emily Brydon will be competing in her third, and final, Winter Olympics next month.

Learn more about Emily Brydon in an interactive profile at: metronews.ca/sports

“By putting a definite conclusion to my career I’ve sort of inspired myself,” she says. “I don’t want to have any regrets.”

Brydon is a survivor and can make the best of any given situation. That’s why she’s the acknowledged leader of the Canadian female team, unofficially dubbed “The Speed Queens.”

It’s a tight-knit group that has lost stars Kelly VanderBeek and Larisa Yurkiw to injury.

“I’ve experienced it all,” Brydon sighs wistfully.

“It would be easy to get caught up in the sadness of those who won’t experience the Games. But it makes me appreciate the team we have. We need to keep going. We have a job to do.”

There’s also an unfinished story to tell and even on a phone, thousands of miles away, I can sense Brydon believes there can be a happy ending.

“I’m totally prepared,” she stresses.

“I have to hold on to that. I’m so proud to be Canadian.”

I say goodbye to her, hoping the speed queen’s last hurrah will be a tall tale we can all remember for many years to come.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

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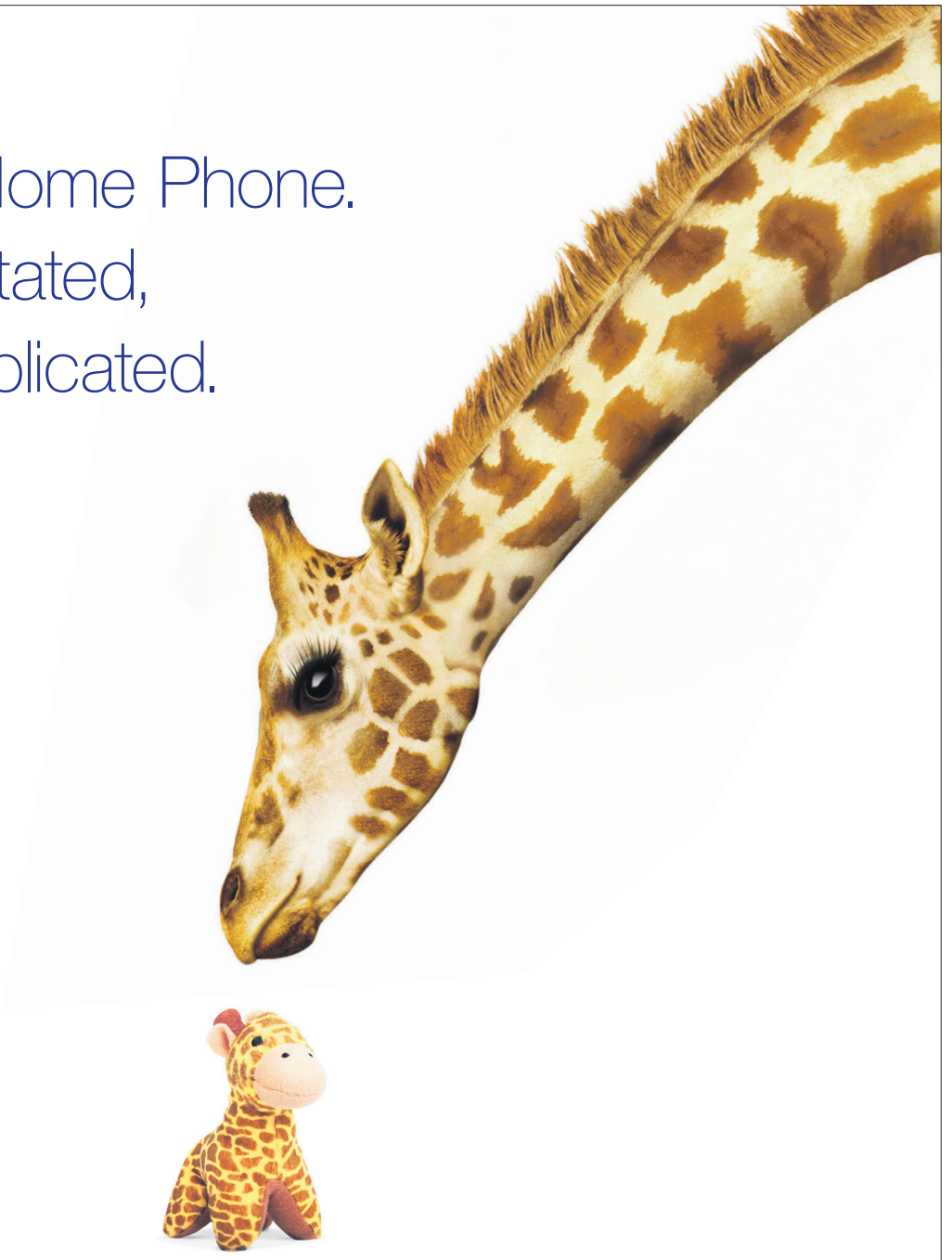

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Visit Metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, read reviews and watch trailers.

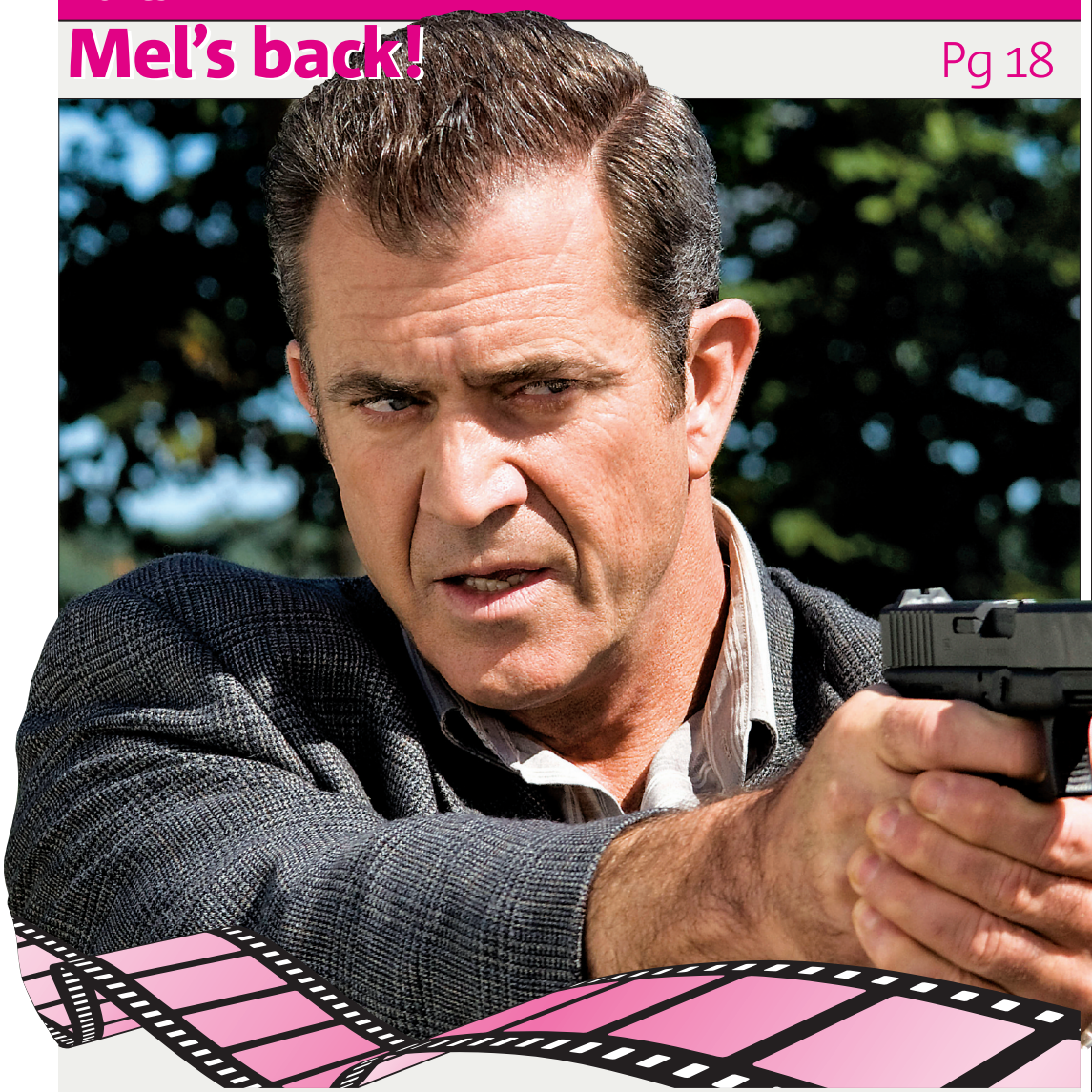
Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Mel's back!

Pg 18



After an eight-year hiatus from acting, Mel Gibson is back as a cop trying to solve his daughter's murder in Edge of Darkness.

Movies

Pg 19

Creation is a hard sell to an easy-going audience.

Music

Pg 26

Ke$ha says she's no role model.

Television

Pg 28

Lucy Lawless fulfills fanboy fantasies in Spartacus.

At a glance
Extraordinary Measures ⊕⊕, Creation ⊕⊕⊕½, The Tooth Fairy ⊕½

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

Mel Gibson, left, stars in the action thriller Edge of Darkness.

Darkness to the max

Gibson returns to acting after eight-year hiatus

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Mel Gibson returns to acting with Edge of Darkness, his first lead role since 2002's Signs. The reason for such a long break is simple, he insists: He got bored.

"I walked away from it after Signs because I just felt I was a bit stale. It wasn't ringing my bells," Gibson says.

"I was just tired and bored with it, you know?" But the veteran actor and director knew he wasn't giving up for good. "You don't know. That's why I didn't make some big pronouncement, like, 'I'm quitting, I'm retiring.'"

Quitting is something very much on Gibson's mind these days, since at the time of our interview he was nine days into quitting smoking.

"The first three days, I was like an axe murderer," he confides. "It is a hellish habit to break. Your neurons are involved. My mother smoked, I think, when I was in her womb."

Quitting smoking was probably a good idea if he's going to take on more films like Edge of Darkness, in which he plays a veteran cop trying to solve his daughter's murder — and getting into plenty of scrapes along the way.

Edge of Darkness opens next Friday

On the web

- For movie trailers, screen times and photos — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

One particular fight scene called for some preparation, Gibson admits. "I ordered a chiropractor for the day after, because I knew I was going to wake up like roadkill, and I did," he says.

Gibson's next film, The Beaver, co-starring and directed by Jodie Foster, sounds much less physical — and a lot quirkier. "It's about a guy who's clinically depressed," Gibson explains. "Circumstances somehow dictate that he finds himself with a ratty beaver hand puppet on his arm, and he manages to kind of save himself and his life and his family and everything by expressing himself through this hand puppet, because that's all he can do."

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BAFTA noms announced
The 2010 BAFTA nominations have been announced, and three films boast a whopping eight nominations, with Avatar, An Education and The Hurt Locker leading the pack. Just behind is District 9 with seven. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Arnett amourous in Rome

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Since the cancellation of his critically acclaimed series Arrested Development, Will Arnett has carved out a nice place for himself in the animated world, with scene-stealing voice roles in Ratatouille, Horton Hears a Who and Monsters vs. Aliens.

In this month's When in Rome, he gets his face in front of the camera again as one of four unlikely suitors bewitched into pursuing Kristen Bell.

Arnett sat down with Metro to talk about promoting a film, the state of the TV industry and those pesky Arrested Development movie updates.

Q Are you tired of people asking about the Arrested Development movie?

A I'm not bothered by it, like, "Oh, God, leave me alone." We're happy that people liked it. We were never trying to be too cool for school at all.

If anything, we wanted more people to get it. I just say, "Yeah, it's happening, for sure." I mean, it's probably more annoying for people who have to read about it.

When In Rome hits theatres next Friday

Q You've also got Jonah Hex coming up, which isn't a comedy.

A Jonah Hex is really a departure for me. I would not describe it as funny. For the first time in my career I will have failed if I make people laugh. Although I probably will. People will laugh at me trying to be serious.

Q Television comedy seems to be making a comeback. How do you see the industry now?

A With all the problems that there are in TV, the only people that they have to blame are not the viewers, but the TV business itself. They've served us up so much reality TV, which was the crack of television.

There's no lasting value to it. And from what I understand with crack, it's the same thing. But if you were to give people something that they could sink their teeth into, whether it's comedy or drama — they could resurrect TV again, and I hope that they do do it.

I hope that people's attitudes in this country start to change a little bit and become a bit more liberal. We live in such a conservative place, where you have one-hour dramas that have incredible violence and gore, and yet you can't say certain words.

It's absolutely absurd. It should be the other way around. You should be able to say "f—" and "s—" in a comedy and see nudity as opposed to letting kids see guys getting shot in the head. That's awful to look at. And yet if you had the side of a buttock, people would be up in arms. How absurd in that?

Will Arnett stars in When In Rome. out next Friday.

Creation's a rewarding ride

Creation
Director: Jon Amiel
Stars: Jennifer Connelly and Paul Bettany
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●½

ANNE BRODIE
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Creation's the kind of emotional love story that should have audiences dabbing tears, while dazzled from the sheer beauty of the look of it.

But it's hard to imagine that filmgoers will embrace its story of faith versus science and death set in a distant Victorian past, so it's up to stellar performances and awesome cinematography to evolve into ticket sales.

Naturalist Charles Darwin (Paul Bettany) changed modern thought with the release of his ground breaking book On the Origin of Species, the scientific treatise that sent shockwaves through the "civilised" world with its premise that the world evolved naturally without God's help. It followed years of studies which took him around the world to undiscovered exotic locales where he formulated his theories.

Emma Darwin (Bettany's wife Jennifer Connelly) was a devout Christian who regarded them as blasphemous. Their philosophical conflict remained polite but the deaths of their infant son and, in the midst of Darwin's scientific endeavours, his favourite child Annie (Martha West) died, sending them both reeling.

Darwin's devastation accelerates the mental and physical strains of years of overwork and his efforts to calm himself through drugs and weird water cures widened the gap between them.

In all, Creation is a difficult sell to easy going, pleasure seeking audiences who like their gratification instant and preferably in the here and now.

Creation has its strengths; it is emotional without being sentimental, clear headed, beautifully directed and gorgeous to look at. Bettany's bravura performance runs the gamut of joy, creativity, clarity, and extreme focus through to madness. His rawness in dealing with reality and his remaining children after Annie's death is heart-tuggingly poignant. His keen sense of humour — in the stories she tells the children and in vignettes of his work with a chimp — helps the story go down.

Connelly dares to be unsympathetic in a raw, heartbreaking performance as a grieving mother who fears for her husband's soul. But the wonky English accent is a constant distraction — almost as much as her beauty. The part's not a stretch for her having done the icy but supportive wife of a mad scientist before in A Beautiful Mind.

Amiel's flights of fancy that shorthand his theory of evolution are worth the price of admission — a bird falls from its nest, decays, provide food for parasites, whose numbers grow and enrich the earth where new life springs forth. The cycle of life in all its cruelty and beauty sweeping by in a few seconds is genius, and mirrored in the Darwin household.

Creation is an admirable piece of work in many ways, but it is heavy hearted and oppressive, which while understandable considering the family's experiences, is difficult. The landscape and interiors mirror the emotional beats in fascinating ways and the whiff of exoticism in Darwin's travels on the Beagle and the stories he tells, leaven the experience. For audiences willing to go the distance, it's a rewarding and interesting ride.

• For a trailer of Creation, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies

Creation is a difficult sell, but rewarding for patient audiences.

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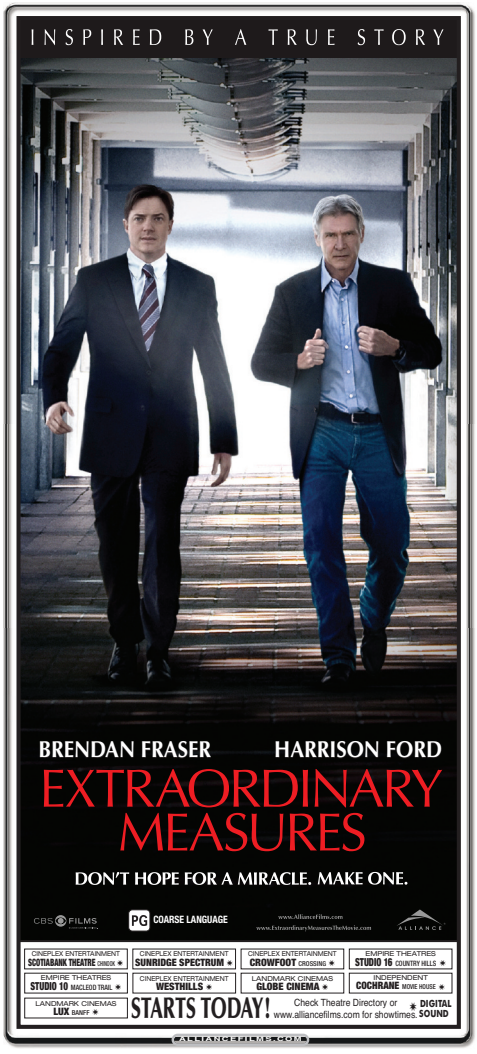

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Lovelace biopic in works

Allan Ginsberg biopic Howl premiered at the Sundance Film Festival Thursday, but directors Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman have already lined up their next film, and it's Lovelace, the story of Deep Throat star Linda Lovelace. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Measures too ordinary

Extraordinary **Measures**

Director: Tom Vaughan
Stars: Harrison Ford, Brendan Fraser, Keri Russell
Classification: PG
Rating: ●●

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Extraordinary Measures was created with good intentions, but it just can't escape an unfortunate "disease of the week" TV movie quality.

Though based on a true story, the screenplay is so rife with clichés and obvious emotional manipulation that it doesn't just tug on your heartstrings, but pulls on them with such brute force that you'll want to file assault charges by the time the credits roll.

There is the nucleus for a touching movie somewhere in the material, but unfortunately the filmmakers never quite found it.

Brendan Fraser stars as John Crowley, a man who abandons his high paying job in an attempt to find a cure for the rare disease that threatens to take his children's lives.

Despite having no background in science or medicine, Crowley seeks out the radical Dr. Stonehill (Harrison Ford) to form a partnership. Together they find funding at a high profile medical facility and set out to discover a cure.

John Crowley is a real man who did quit his job to save his ailing children and his story worthy of a film, just not one with a badass scientist who rocks out to loud music while staring into his microscope and countless scenes of actors getting weepy and looking thoughtfully off screen rather than expressing real emotions.

Brendan Fraser's character tries to find a cure for a disease affecting his kids in Extraordinary Measures.

You've seen Extraordinary Measures many times before. The filmmakers made no attempt to avoid the trappings of the "terminally ill children" genre of cheap melodrama.

Harrison Ford is admittedly funny as a surly scientist, but he plays a snarky movie character that is awkwardly wedged into a true story. Brendan Fraser does his best as John Crowley, but sadly his role is limited to pouting and appearing stressed for 90 minutes until he can finally smile in the last reel.

John Crowley's story is certainly unique and inspiring enough to warrant a movie. This just isn't the one he deserves.

• For a trailer of Extraordinary Measures, screen times of photos, visit metronews.ca/movies

Shrine all decked up for SAG

AWARDS Four crystal chandeliers dangle near the ground, waiting to be hoisted into place. Stacks of silver seat cushions sit in plastic-wrapped stacks apart from the chairs that need them.

A series of plywood folding tables look decidedly unglamorous without their crushed taffeta tablecloths and fancy silverware.

Workers were busy Wednesday transforming the Shrine Exhibition Hall, a big empty space that looks like a giant basketball court without hoops, into one of the most elegant sites in the city, fit to welcome scores of A-list guests attending Saturday's Screen Actors Guild Awards.

With a soundtrack of drills and the occasional forklift, dozens of workers milled about the 34,000-square-foot space.

Nearly 10 were on stage, screwing pieces into place on the art deco-inspired set.

Others were setting up the show's green room, where massive tool crates labelled "rigging," "dollys," "power tools" and "hardware" stood side by side.

The hallway where winners will claim their statuettes still looked like an old concession area Wednesday, complete with popcorn machine. By Saturday, it, too, will be draped in black curtains, ready for its close-up.

Just as most of the actors attending the SAG Awards will spend extra time to look their best at the ceremony, so will the cavernous Shrine, Stewart says: "It just goes to show you that any space can look really good if you decorate it."

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Sat at 7:38pm • Report
Tony Fonseca Someone call 911.
Sat at 7:52pm • Report
James T Anyone bring pepper spray?
Sat at 7:59pm • Report
Adam Parker Here, beary, beary, beary....
Sat at 8:17pm • Report
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Coens announce True Grit remake

The Coen Brothers' remake of the classic True Grit for Paramount Pictures will be hitting theaters on Christmas Day of 2010. The remake of the 1969 western stars Jeff Bridges as U.S. Marshal Rooster Cogburn, the character initially played by John Wayne. IMDB.COM

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Squared circle to silver screen

InFocus

Richard Crouse

metronews.ca/infocus

"One of the more prolific wrestlers-turned-actors, Canadian-born Rowdy Roddy Piper has dozens of movie credits."

You can blame (or thank, depending on your point of view) Vincent K. McMahon for movies like Mr. Nanny and Abraxas. Both starred wrestlers — Hulk Hogan and Jesse Ventura respectively — and while WWE chief McMahon didn't write or direct either of the films, he understood the promotional importance of allowing his wrestlers to make the leap from the ring to the big screen.

It wasn't always that way however.

Although wrestlers have been appearing in movies for decades—wrestler Lenny Montana played The Godfather's Luca Brazzi and Tor Johnson, the Super-Swedish Angel, made 31 movies including the legendary Plan 9 From Outer Space — initially the powerful McMahon family actively tried to keep their wrestlers off the screen.

For instance, the elder McMahon, Vincent J., who originally hired Hulk Hogan, refused him permission to appear in Rocky III.

He resolutely believed wrestlers should fight, not act. It wasn't until Vince Jr. stepped in and gave Hogan the go-ahead that the heyday of wraslin' movies began in earnest.

After that many of McMahon's bigger-than-life wrestlers tried their hands at Hollywood stardom, including Dwayne Johnson, a.k.a. The Rock, who headlines this weekend's The Tooth Fairy.

Most of movies in the wrestler genre aren't great—filmjunk.com called Hulk's Santa with Muscles a "crapterpiece"—but there are a couple of notable exceptions.

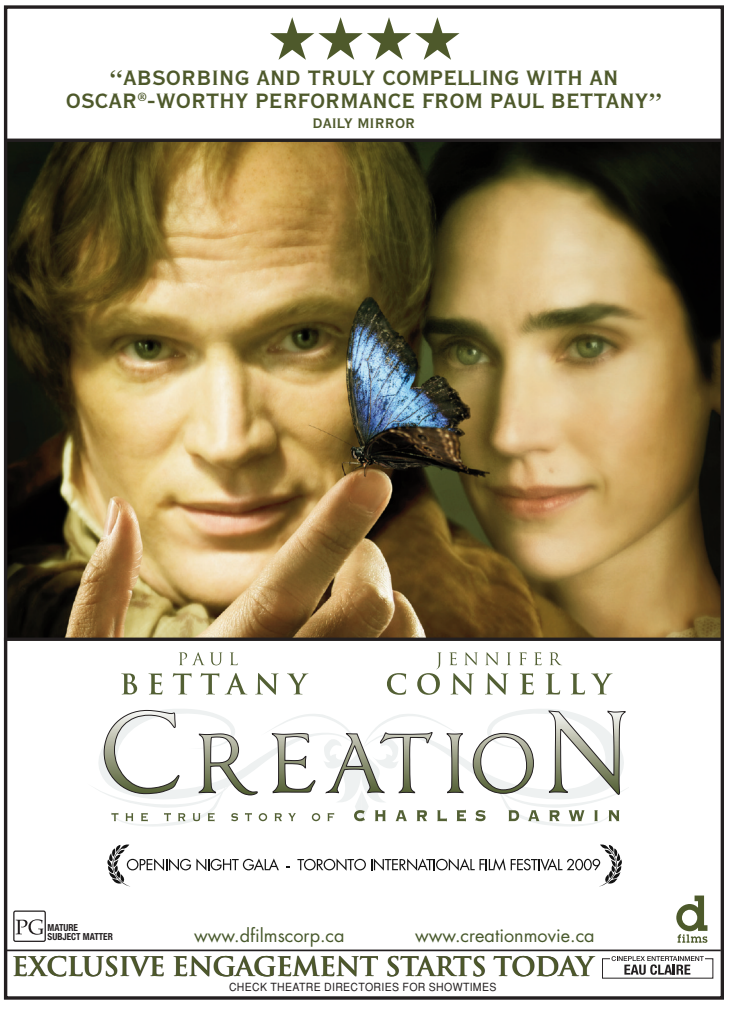
One of the more prolific wrestlers-turned-actors, Canadian-born Rowdy Roddy Piper has dozens of movie credits, but his high point came in 1988's They Live, where he delivered the now classic line, "I have come here to chew bubblegum and kick ass. And I'm all out of bubblegum." It's his "Hasta la vista, baby!," and is one of the great action quotes of the decade.

And while it is unlikely that WWE Hall of Famer Stone Cold Steve Austin could ever receive any kind of acting award unless he did his trademarked Axe Handle Elbow Drop on the entire Academy, he has held his in The Longest Yard and The Condemned and has three films coming out in 2010.

Recently Triple H, Stacy Keibler and Goldberg have all tried for acting careers and why not? McMahon calls his wrestlers "entertainers" and The Wrestler director Darren Aronofsky asked rhetorically, "Why aren't wrestlers in SAG? If you really think about it, the Screen Actors Guild should organize them."

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

Wrestlers such as Tor Johnson and Hulk Hogan have been appearing in movies for decades.



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Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Dawyne Johnson stars in Tooth Fairy.

Like pulling teeth

Tooth Fairy
Director: Michael Lembeck
Stars: Dwayne Johnson, Ashley Judd
Classification: G
Rating: ●½

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

It must be tough being Dwayne Johnson. The man is a decent comedic actor and has right physical stature to be an action lead.

Unfortunately he made his name as the professional wrestler The Rock and that's a hard image to shake.

He might not be credited as The Rock on movie posters anymore, but audiences haven't forgotten and his projects are suitably lowbrow.

Johnson has taken Hulk Hogan's crown as the premiere former wrestler turned awkward family film leading man. Johnson's latest cinematic misstep is Tooth Fairy and it just might be his lowest moment yet.

No less than six credited writers were needed to bring this film to life and sadly none of them came up with a decent joke.

To be fair, it would be hard for anyone to mine laughs out of a concept that sees Johnson portray a violent hockey player nicknamed the Tooth Fairy (because he knocks out so many teeth on the ice) who becomes an actual tooth fairy.

Explaining how this happens would make even less sense on paper than it does on screen, but the journey somehow allows him to connect with his girlfriend's children.

Tooth Fairy is a frustrating film that should even irritate youngsters. What's odd is how many recognizable actors turned up for the train wreck.

Ashley Judd, Family Guy creator Seth Macfarlane, The Office co-creator Stephen Merchant, and even Julie Andrews all embarrass themselves at some point during the proceedings.

• For a trailer of Tooth Fairy, screen times of photos, visit metronews.ca/movies

Brisk Life high on actors

High Life
Director:
Stars: Timothy Olyphant
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW The best joke in High Life is also the first, as the film's main character — a washed-out parolee/morphine addict played by Timothy Olyphant — informs us via voice-over that, as far back as he could remember, he had always wanted to be a lawyer.

It's a winking paraphrase of Ray Liotta's scene-setting reminiscence in Goodfellas, and while Gary Yates' Winnipeg-set period thriller isn't a patch on Martin Scorcese's 1990 classic, it does reiterate one of its key themes: being a criminal is especially difficult when you're high as a kite.

A group of drug-addled parolees go on a crime spree in crime thriller High Life.

Dick's multi-part plan to defraud a series of ATM machines (brand new as of the film's 1983 setting) is actually pretty clever, but populating his crew with three fellow junkies — including his brutal former cellmate (Stephen McIntyre) and a callow ladies' man he meets at an addiction support group (Rossif Sutherland) — is a less-than-genius move.

Yates, who showed a deft touch in the grafter tale Seven Times Lucky, does well in opening up Lee McDougall's award-winning play for the screen, aided in so small part by his game cast.

Olyphant gives a nicely straightforward performance, ceding most of the best lines to the glowering McIntyre.

Seasoned viewers will likely predict at least a few of the film's second-half twists, but High Life understands that it's best to quit while you're ahead: its 78-minute running time leaves a winning impression of briskness.

Cineplex | Empire | Landmark | Independent

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN. 21 TO THURS., JAN. 28. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

CANYON MEADOWS
Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail, 403-670-5444

2012 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-5-8:35
Brothers (STC) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:20-7:25-9:55
Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-6:50-9:20
Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:35-6:55-9:35
Disney's A Christmas Carol (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Thu 4-7:30-9:50
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-3:55-7:20-9:40
Invictus (STC) Fri-Thu 1-3:45-6:45-9:30
Law Abiding Citizen (18A) Fri-Thu 4:05-7:10-9:40
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 9:45
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:40-7-9:25
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-4:15-7:05
Where the Wild Things Are (PG) Fri-Thu 1:35

CROWFOOT CROSSING
91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:45-5-7:15
Avatar 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 2-6:30-10
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 3:30-6:40-9:40
The Book of Eli (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:30
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Fri-Tue 1-4-7-9:45 Wed 4-7-9:45 Thu 1-4-7-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
It's Complicated (14A) Fri-Thu 3:40-9:50
Leap Year (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-7:25
Legion (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:25
The Lovely Bones (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20
The Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann Encore (STC) Sat 11
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Thu 1:05
Race Across the Sky (STC) Wed 7
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:10-10:10
The Spy Next Door (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:10-6:50-9:35
Tooth Fairy (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:10-3:45-6:45-9:30 No Passes Wed 3:45-6:45-9:30 No Passes Thu 1:10-3:45-6:45-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Up in the Air (14A) Fri-Thu 10:15
Youth in Revolt (14A) Fri 1:40-4:40-7:30-9:55 Sat 4:40-7:30-9:55 Sun-Tue 1:40-4:40-7:30-9:55 Wed 1:40-4:40-9:55 Thu 1:40-4:40-7:30-9:55

EAU CLAIRE MARKET
200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

Avatar (PG) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 12-4-8 Mon-Thu 8
Broken Embraces (14A) Fri 6:40-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:10-6:40-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:35
Creation (PG) Fri 6:50-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:50-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:45
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 11:50-3:6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30
A Single Man (STC) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 7-9:40
Up in the Air (14A) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:50

EMPIRE STUDIO 16 COUNTRY HILLS
388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:3:15-6:30-9
Avatar 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-1-4-4:30-8-9:30
The Blind Side (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:55-6:50-9:55
The Book of Eli (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sat 1:15-4:10-7:25-10:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:25-10:10
Daybreakers (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2-4:25-7:45-10:15
Extraordinary Measures (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-7:10-9:50
It's Complicated (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:20-3:30-6:55-9:40
Leap Year (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-3:20-6:55-9:25
Legion (18A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Fri-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:15-9:45
The Lovely Bones (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:10-4:15-7:05-10:05 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 1:10-4:15-7:05-10:05
Sherlock Holmes (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:10
The Spy Next Door (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:10-6:40-9:15
Tooth Fairy (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:15-3-6:45-9:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon 1-3:35-6:45-9:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Tue-Thu 12:15-3-6:45-9:20
Up in the Air (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:10
Youth in Revolt (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-3:50-7:30-9:50

EMPIRE STUDIO 10 MACLEOD TRAIL
100-16061 MacLeod Trail, 403-974-0470

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:15
Avatar 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12-2-4-6:30-8-10
The Blind Side (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:40
The Book of Eli (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-4:30-7:35-10:30
Extraordinary Measures (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:25-10:15
It's Complicated (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:45-3:40-6:50-9:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 12:45-3:40-9:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:45-3:40-6:50-9:30
Legion (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 1:45-4:40-7:45-10:20
The Lovely Bones (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:50
Sherlock Holmes (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:15-3:20-7:10:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 3:20-7:10:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:15-3:20-7-10:10
Tooth Fairy (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-7:10-9:45

Saoirse Ronan stars in Lovely Bones

Jackie Chan stars in the Spy Next Door.

GLOBE CINEMA
617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri 6:45-9:20 Sat 12:45-3:20-6:45-9:20 Sun 12:45-3:20-7:15 Mon-Thu 7:15
The Royal Ballet - Swan Lake (STC) Sat 10
Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg (PG) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1-3:15-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15

MOVIEDOME
1039 999 36 St. N.E., 403-248-2000

2012 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-7:30
3 Idiots (PG) Fri-Thu 8:30
Chance Pe Dance (PG) Fri-Thu 8:45
Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:40-6:55-9:45
Dulha Mil Gaya (PG) Fri-Thu 2-6:30
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:50
Invictus (STC) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:35
Law Abiding Citizen (18A) Fri-Sat 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:40 Sun 12:50-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:40
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-10
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:05-9:55
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:50-6:40

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK
6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri-Thu 11:40-2-4:30-7:10-9:40
Avatar 3D (PG) Fri 11:30-12:20-3:10-4-6:45-7:40-10:25-11:10 Sat 12:20-3:10-4-6:45-7:40-10:25-11:10 Sun-Thu 11:30-12:20-3:10-4-6:45-7:40-10:25
Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 11:45-3:15-7:10:30
The Book of Eli (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:05-4:10-7:25-10:20
Daybreakers (18A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:20-7:30-10:25
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:15-7:25-9:55
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG) Fri-Thu 10:30
It's Complicated (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-4-7:15-10:15
Leap Year (PG) Fri-Tue 1:10-4:05-7:05-9:50 Wed 1:10-4:05-9:50 Thu 4:05-7:05-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Legion (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-3:50-7:15-10:10
The Lovely Bones (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-3:30-7:10:05
The Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann Encore (STC) Sat 11
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Tue 11:50-2:15-4:55-7:20 Wed 11:50-2:15-4:55 Thu 11:50-2:15-4:55-7:20
Race Across the Sky (STC) Wed 7
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:15-6:50-10:05
The Spy Next Door (PG) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:05-4:40-7:05-9:35
Tooth Fairy (G) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:30-3:40-7-9:45 No Passes Thu 3:40-7-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Youth in Revolt (14A) Fri-Thu 12-2:20-5-7:20-10:10

PLAZA THEATRE
1133 Kensington Rd. N.W., 403-283-3636

Dust & Illusions (STC) Thu 7
An Education (PG) Fri-Tue 7:15-9:15 Wed-Thu 5
The House of the Devil (STC) Thu 9:30
Ponyo (G) Fri 5:10 Sat-Sun 12:10 Mon 5:10
Raising Arizona (STC) Sat 4:30 Wed 9
A Serious Man (14A) Sat 2:30 Wed 7

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM
2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:30-6:40
Avatar 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 11:30-12:3-4-6:45-8-10:30
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 9:30
The Book of Eli (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:35-7:05-10:05
Daybreakers (18A) Fri-Thu 5-7:25-10
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Fri-Tue 12:35-3:30-7:15-10:10 Wed 3:30-7:15-10:10 Thu 12:35-3:30-7:15-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
It's Complicated (14A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-6:55-9:55
Leap Year (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:05-6:35-9:15
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The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:25
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The Spy Next Door (PG) Fri-Thu 11:55-2:40-6:50-9:35
Tooth Fairy (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:40-2:35-6:30-9:20
Veer (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:55-7:35

THE UPTOWN STAGE & SCREEN
612 8th Ave. S.W., 403-265-0120

Art & Copy (STC) Wed 5
Bravo Fact Screening (STC) Sat 2
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 2:20-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:20
The Road (14A) Fri-Sat 9:15 Sun 2:15-9:15 Mon-Thu 9:15
The Young Victoria (PG) Fri 4:50-7:10 Sat-Sun 12:10-4:50-7:10 Mon-Tue 4:50-7:10 Wed 7:10 Thu 4:50-7:10
Youth in Revolt (14A) Fri 4:40 Sat-Sun 12-4:40 Mon-Thu 4:40

WESTHILLS 10
165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri-Sun 1:20
Avatar 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-1:50-3:45-6:30-7:40-10 Mon-Thu 5:40-7:10-9
The Book of Eli (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:50-3:35-6:55-9:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:10-8:50
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:20-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:15-7:45
It's Complicated (14A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:20-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:30
Legion (18A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:45-3:10-7:50-10:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 6-8:20
The Lovely Bones (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:25-3:30-6:50-9:55 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:45-8:40
Race Across the Sky (STC) Wed 7
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:05-7:20-10:20 Mon-Thu 5-7:55
Tooth Fairy (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:05-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:05-7:25
Up in the Air (14A) Fri-Sun 4:10-7:10-10:05 Mon-Tue 5:10-7:35 Wed 9:10 Thu 5:10-7:35

Billboard's top albums

1. Contra, Vampire Weekend, left; 2. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle; 3. Animal, Ke$ha; 4. The Fame, Lady Gaga; The Element of Freedom, Alicia Keys. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Ke$ha taps wild side

JENNIFER BILL
for Metro Canada

Whether it's singing about brushing her teeth with a bottle of Jack or tossing her cookies in Paris Hilton's closet at a party, Ke$ha — pop's newest sassy sister — knows her free-spirited, unabashed quest for unfettered fun doesn't make her the best role model for young admirers.

Animal is the debut album from pop singer Ke$ha.

Rather, the 22-year-old TiK ToK singer thinks her fans hold her high on her party-girl pedestal for being real and not afraid to sing about it. Ke$ha makes little attempt to tamp down her wild side. Thusly her first album, Animal, seems aptly titled.

"I kind of think that this record embodies being an animal and giving into the animal side of yourself, and being really raw," Ke$ha told Metro , before a private show in Toronto recently. She described her 14-song debut as "magical" and "a celebration of fun and youth, irreverence" and the resulting "papparazi-ness" as crazy.

"Some songs are funny, and some of them are a bummer and some of them are just unapologetically sassy," Ke$ha said. "I'm just being honest. I never said that 100 per cent of the things I have done are necessarily things to be copied, it's really just like, I documented my life."

Animal, released Jan. 5, quickly leapt to No. 1 much like TiK ToK catapulted to the top when it bounced onto airwaves in October. TiK ToK has held steady in singles charts and took platinum status in Canada, the U.S., Australia and New Zealand.

Ke$ha admitted she was almost surprised TiK ToK, which Nielsen Soundscan called the most downloaded song in one week by a female artist, was that good.

"I had no idea. I actually, like, I wrote it and I didn't think it was anything special because I've written every song on my record so in the process of writing you get so excited and then afterwards you're like, 'Is it good? Is it bad?' I had no idea," she said.

The L.A.-born Ke$ha was raised on welfare and food stamps by her single mother, Pebe Sebert. Ke$ha grew up in Tennessee recording studios — Sebert co-wrote Old Flames Can't Hold A Candle To You, which became a hit for Dolly Parton in 1980 — and was exposed to the tunes of Johnny Cash, Bob Dylan and Patsy Cline.

On Animal Ke$ha cheekily chronicles her experiences living life hard.

"I wrote all the songs … at a time when I lived in Los Angeles, and I went out all the time and, you know, did have drinks and did dance and did have unapologetic, irreverent, breaking-into-house-parties kind of fun, so I never said that I'm the best role model," she said. "But I do think that if kids can take away anything positive from the record it's that you can have fun with everything and not take certain things … so seriously. I also don't take myself that seriously."

Back from the dead

SoundCheck

The biggest promoters and management companies know that if the bag of money on the table is big enough, there's a 99 per cent chance they can convince a band to reunite.

This formula resulted in the resurrection of dead-forever bands like Rage Against the Machine, My Bloody Valentine and the Jesus and Mary Chain. What's in store for 2010?

Soundgarden: Given the alleged money issues involving their old manager (who, for added drama, is singer Chris Cornell's ex-wife; it was a nasty divorce) and the fact that drummer Matt Cameron is a happiest guy to ever play drums for Pearl Jam, I would have bet the mortgage against this ever happening. Details are still being worked out, but watch for a summer tour and some kind of box set in time for Christmas.

Hole: Waiting for Courtney to release her Nobody's Daughter album has been like expecting Godot to return with those promised double-doubles from Tim Hortons. We still don't have a release date for the CD, but Hole — with Courtney as the only original member — will play a short tour starting in London on Feb. 17.

The Plastic Ono Band: That same night in New York, Yoko will caterwaul for one last night. On Feb. 17, she'll be joined by son Sean, Eric Clapton, Paul Simon, Bette Midler, Thurston Moore and Kim Gordon from Sonic Youth, members of the Scissor Sisters and whomever else she can round up.

Suede: Excitement amongst Brit-pop fans has been muted since this reunion seems to be just a one-off thing for charity and that it won't feature original guitarist Bernard Butler.

Pavement: We were advised a year in advance that the California lo-fi boffins would be reuniting for a multi-night run in New York's Central Park this September. Since then, though, plans have expanded considerably. Rehearsals start next month with the first gig set for Auckland, New Zealand March 1 followed by Australia, Japan, the U.K. and Europe.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

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Zesty Shrimp and Pasta

PREP TIME: 10 MIN. ➤ TOTAL TIME: 25 MIN. ➤ MAKES: 6 SERVINGS

What You Need
300 g (1/3 of 900-g pkg.) linguine, uncooked
1/3 cup *Kraft Calorie-Wise Zesty Italian* Dressing, divided
2 cups sliced fresh mushrooms
1 small onion, thinly sliced
1 can (14 fl oz/398 mL) artichoke hearts, drained, quartered
1 lb. (450 g) uncooked deveined peeled large shrimp
1 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
1/4 cup *Kraft 100% Parmesan Light Grated Cheese*

Make it
COOK pasta in large saucepan as directed on package.
MEANWHILE, heat 1/4 cup dressing in large skillet on medium heat. Add mushrooms, onions and artichokes; cook 3 min. or until onions are crisp-tender, stirring occasionally. Stir in shrimp and parsley; cook 2 min. or until shrimp turn pink and vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally.
DRAIN pasta; return to pan. Add shrimp mixture and remaining dressing; toss lightly. Sprinkle with cheese.

See this recipe prepared in next week's show: Smart Supper (under 500 calories)

THIS WEEK – CULINARY TRENDS FOR 2010 ➤ whatscookingtv.com

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Conan gets $45M to walk away

NBC said Thursday it has reached a $45 million US deal with Conan O'Brien for his exit from the Tonight show, allowing Jay Leno to return to the late-night program he hosted for 17 years.

Under the deal, which came seven months after O'Brien took the reins from Leno, O'Brien will get more than $33 million, NBC said. The rest will go to his 200-strong staff in severance, the network said in an announcement on the Today show.

His final show will be Friday, with Tom Hanks scheduled to appear as well as Will Ferrell — the first guest O'Brien welcomed as Tonight host last June — and musical guest Neil Young. Leno will return to Tonight on March 1.

"In the end, Conan was appreciative of the steps NBC made to take care of his staff and crew, and decided to supplement the severance they were getting out of his own pocket," his manager, Gavin Polone, told The Wall Street Journal. "Now he just wants to get back on the air as quickly as possible."

Conan O'Brien

O'Brien will be free to begin another TV job as soon as September, NBC said. There has been speculation on where he might go next. ABC (which airs Nightline and Jimmy Kimmel Live!) has said it wasn't interested, while Fox, which lacks a network late-night show, expressed appreciation for his show — but nothing more. Comedy Central has also been mentioned.

A spokesman for O'Brien said he would be unavailable for comment.

O'Brien landed the Tonight show after successfully hosting Late Night, which airs an hour later, since 1993. But he quickly stumbled in the ratings race against his CBS rival, David Letterman.

Under Leno, the Tonight show was the ratings champ at 11:35 p.m., but he proved an instant flop with his experiment in prime time. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRIDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/22/10	243	317 3 CFCN	etalk	Access H.	Flashpoint (DVS)		Hope for Haiti Now Celebrities raise money for Haiti.				CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	King/Queens	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Friends
	-	371 5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Hope for Haiti Now Celebrities raise money for Haiti.				20/20
	245	306 6 CBRT	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338 7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	NUMB3RS		Dollhouse		Shark Tank		News Hour
	246	- 8 CKAL	Murdoch Mysteries		The Jay Leno Show (N)		Supernanny		Man Tracker		Your City
	-	372 12 KREM	News	Access H.	The Doctors (N)		Hope for Haiti Now Celebrities raise money for Haiti.				Medium
	-	374 14 KSPS	PBS NewsHour (N)		Hope for Haiti	McLaughlin	Hope for Haiti Now		Hope for Haiti	Classical Dest.	Windsors
	-	370 16 KHQ	News (N)	Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune	Hope for Haiti Now Celebrities raise money for Haiti.				Jay Leno Show
	-	373 22 KAYU	The Office	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Hope for Haiti Now Celebrities raise money for Haiti.				News
news	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Mounties Under Fire		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Mounties-Fire
	500	500 29 CNN	(6) Hope for Haiti Now		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Tonight		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	Basketball	Tennis Australian Open, Third Round. (HDTV) From Melbourne, Australia. (Live)							SportsCentre
	408	418 27 net	NHL Hockey Dallas Stars at Edmonton Oilers. (HDTV) (Live)					Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Connected (N)		Telus Oilers
family	552	543 20 YTV	iCarly	To Be Indie	*Alice, Upside Down* (2007, Comedy) Alyson Stoner.				That's-Weird	Fries That?	Prank Patrol
	557	541 39 FAM	Zeke & Luther	Jonas	Sonny Chance	*Good Boy!* ★★ (2003, Comedy)			*Freaky Friday* ★★★ (2003, Comedy)		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Diner, Drive-In	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		(10:01) Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Relic Hunter		*Destination: Infestation* (2007, Suspense), Jessalyn Gilsig				Kenny vs.
	520	505 35 DISC	Man vs. Wild		Machines of Malice		Daily Planet		Man vs. Wild		Dirty Jobs
	628	584 43 SPIKE	Best of PRIDE Fighting		Best of PRIDE Fighting		MANswers	MANswers	MANswers	MANswers	CSI: Crime Scn
	522	516 45 HIST	Blow Down		Ancients Behaving Badly		Nostradamus Effect		*Behind Enemy Lines* ★★ (2001, Action)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *Pitch Black* ★★ (2000, Science Fiction)		*Aliens* ★★★★ (1986, Science Fiction) Sigourney Weaver, Carrie Henn, Michael Biehn.						
	581	566 102 MTV	Jersey Shore		Teen Mom		1 girl 5 gays	After	Buried	Life of Ryan	Teen Mom

SATURDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/23/10	243	317 3 CFCN	W5 (DVS)		CSI: NY		CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		Chinese Rest.	Trendy Zone	*I Corrupt All Cops* (2009, Crime Drama) Tony Leung.				Most Amazing
	-	371 5 KXLY	4 News at 6	The Insider (N)	Entertainment Tonight		Grey's Anatomy (HDTV)		The Deep End "Pilot"		Castle
	245	306 6 CBRT	NHL Hockey		NHL Hockey Chicago Blackhawks at Vancouver Canucks. (HDTV) (Live)					HNIC: After Hours	
	244	338 7 CICT	renegadepress	Jane Show	16th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards (N)				The Guard "Full Circle"		News Final (N)
	246	- 8 CKAL	Cooking	Most Amazing	Glenn Martin	Out There	*Emile* ★★ (2003, Drama) Ian McKellen. (DVS)				The City Show
	-	372 12 KREM	News	Scrubs	Grey's Anatomy		CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		48 Hours Myst.
	-	374 14 KSPS	The Lawrence Welk Show		May-December	Time Goes By	(9:05) *Eye of the Needle* ★★★ (1981, Suspense)				Great Big Sea
	-	370 16 KHQ	College Basketball		CSI: NY "Obsession"		Mercy "We're All Adults"		Figure Skating		
	-	373 22 KAYU	House "Alone"		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Cops (N)	Cops	America's Most Wanted		News
news	502	390 15 CBC	National	Mansbridge	Secret World of Shoplifting		National	News: At Issue	National	Mansbridge	Secret-Shoplift
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live		Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Weekend		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	World Series	SportsCentre	Tennis Australian Open, Round of 16. (HDTV) From Melbourne, Australia. (Live)						SportsCentre
	408	418 27 net	Skiing	Alpine Skiing		MMA Conn	Best Damn Toughman		Saturday Night Poker		Sportsnet Con.
family	552	543 20 YTV	Kid vs. Kat	League-Evil	Zeke's Pad (N)	Prank Patrol	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	Survive This
	557	541 39 FAM	(7:01) Jonas	Overruled!	Suite/Deck	Zoey 101	Suite Life	Han. Montana	*Batman Forever* ★★ (1995, Action)		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Chopped		Top Chef Masters		The F Word		Hugh's Chicken Run		Chopped
	615	520 26 A&E	(6) *The Green Mile* ★★★ (1999, Drama) Tom Hanks.				Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal	(10:01) *The Green Mile* (1999, Drama)		
	617	522 32 SHOW	(5) *Spider-Man 3* ★★		Slings and Arrows		*NYC: Tornado Terror* (2008, Suspense) Nicole de Boer.				*Spider-Man 3*
	520	505 35 DISC	Dirty Jobs "Reindeer Farm"		Verminators "Gator Bait" (N)		Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Dirty Jobs "Reindeer Farm"		Destroyed
	628	584 43 SPIKE	(6:30) *Lethal Weapon* ★★★ (1987, Action)				*Deliverance* ★★★ (1972, Adventure) Jon Voight, Ned Beatty.				
	522	516 45 HIST	Ancients Behaving Badly		Nostradamus Effect		Cities of the Underworld		*A Knight's Tale* ★★ (2001, Adventure)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *The Matrix* ★★★ (1999, Science Fiction)				*The Matrix* ★★★ (1999, Science Fiction) Keanu Reeves.				
	581	566 102 MTV	Over the Bolts	Over the Bolts	MTV Live	Movie Night	After	1 girl 5 gays	Over the Bolts	Peak Season	Peak Season

SUNDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/24/10	243	317 3 CFCN	NFL Football		Cold Case		CSI: Miami "Bolt Action"		Flashpoint		CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	Without a Trace		Aaram (N)	Chardi Kalaa	Bollywood Boulevard		Hockey	Faces	Grandmother
	-	371 5 KXLY	News	Cougar Basket	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Powell Family" (N)				Housewives
	245	306 6 CBRT	Heartland (N) (DVS)		Test the Nation: IQ 2010 (HDTV) (N) (DVS)				CBC News: The National		The Great War
	244	338 7 CICT	16:9 Picture	Family	*The Da Vinci Code* ★★ (2006, Mystery) Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou. Premiere.						News Final (N)
	246	- 8 CKAL	Murdoch Mysteries		Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Powell Family" (N)				Most Amazing
	-	372 12 KREM	KREM 2 News at 6 (N)		60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)		CSI: NY (HDTV)		Cold Case (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
	-	374 14 KSPS	Lark Rise to Candleford		Nature (HDTV) (DVS)		Masterpiece Classic "Emma" Emma plays matchmaker.				MI-5
	-	370 16 KHQ	News	Mark Few	Dateline NBC				Figure Skating Countdown to Vancouver.		
	-	373 22 KAYU	NFL Football		NFL Postgame	TBA	Bones		House "Human Error"		News
news	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		*Which Way Home* (2009, Documentary)			Mansbridge	CBC News: The National		*Which Way*
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live		Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		State/Union
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Weekend		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	(5:30) Curling Canadian Juniors: Men's Final. (Live)				SportsCentre		NFL PrimeTime	Motoring 2010	SnowTrax
	408	418 27 net	CHL Hockey		Flames Week	Alpine Skiing		MMA Conn	Sportsnet Connected (N)		Poker
family	552	543 20 YTV	*Snow Day* ★★ (2000, Comedy) Chris Elliott, Jean Smart.				Prank Patrol	Family Biz	Fries That?	Fries That?	Survive This
	557	541 39 FAM	(7:01) Jonas	Overruled!	Suite/Deck	Zoey 101	Suite Life	Han. Montana	*Batman* ★★★ (1989, Action) Jack Nicholson.		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Iron Chef America		Dinner: Impossible		Restaurant Makeover		Jamie's Ministry of Food		Iron Chef Am.
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		(10:01) Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	(5) *Live Free or Die Hard*		Cra$h & Burn "Jump"		*Storm Cell* (2008, Drama) Mimi Rogers, Elyse Levesque.				*Live Free-Die*
	520	505 35 DISC	Edge of the Universe		MythBusters (N)		Anthony Bourdain		Journey to the Edge of the Universe		
	628	584 43 SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Disorderly Conduct: Video		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		*First Blood* ★★★ (1982, Action)		
	522	516 45 HIST	Ice Pilots NWT (HDTV)		Ancient Discoveries		Lost Secret of Omaha Beach		*Saving Private Ryan* ★★★★ (1998, War)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *Space Cowboys* ★★★ (2000, Adventure)				*Space Cowboys* ★★★ (2000, Adventure) Clint Eastwood, Tommy Lee Jones.				
	581	566 102 MTV	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	1 girl 5 gays	Over the Bolts	After	Cribs	Cribs

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WEEKLY REWARDS

Kristen Bell Josh Duhamel
Will Arnett Jon Heder Dax Shepard Danny DeVito Anjelica Huston
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A Baldwin in Manhattan

William Baldwin will play Blake Lively's estranged father on Gossip Girl. Baldwin, 46, will guest-star as William van der Woodsen beginning with an episode to air April 26. PEOPLE.COM.

Television

SECOND CUP
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Valid only at participating Second Cup locations from January 22 to January 25, 2010. Buy a medium size brewed coffee and receive a medium size brewed coffee for Free. Offer is limited to one Free medium size brewed coffee with purchase per voucher. Voucher has no cash value and is not valid with any other offer.

Sci-fi princess moves to Ancient Rome

Lucy Lawless steams up the small screen in Spartacus

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Lucy Lawless is attracting a lot of attention for her latest character — not that the New Zealand actress isn't used to recognition.

As Xena: Warrior Princess, Lawless gained a surfeit of spirited sci-fi fans that adored the cult TV show for six years before following it as one of the sexy Cylons on Battlestar Galactica.

Now Lawless isn't just stirring the fantasies of fanboys worldwide — she's fulfilling them. In her provocative new gladiator series, Spartacus: Blood and Sand (premiering on The Movie Network and Movie Central this Monday), Lawless is just one of many characters that spends plenty of on-screen time shedding their togas.

Spartacus: Blood and Sand airs on Movie Central this Monday

"It's really kind of a spooky thing," laughed Lawless of the series' lack of dress. "The good news is that we have very sympathetic producers who work very hard to make us all look fantastic even (in high-definition). I mean nobody really looks good on HDTV past the age of nine.

"You get that big old pimple on your bottom, everybody's going to see it."

Lucky for the cast, Spartacus is a thrilling mix of gritty violence and graphic imagery to distract viewers from any blemished bodies.

In fact, with the world of gladiators largely produced in post-production, one might assume it a challenge for actors.

"We don't think about it at all; your imagination kind of fills in the blanks but its just gorgeous to see the finished product," said Lawless. "It's not like Avatar where the whole world is CGI.

"We have really big, practical sets that you can climb up and balconies — it's really solidly constructed — so it's not all imagined; not playing everything to a tennis ball on a stick like we used to in the old days."

No matter how it's put together, Spartacus seems destined to be Lawless' third sci-fi success. Starz, the series' U.S. distributor has even already ordered a second season.

It seems that in 2010, audiences are as fascinated by gladiators as ever.

"It satisfies some sort of blood lust we have," said Lawless of the series' timeliness.

"(Even) if you took away all the boobs and all the blood and all the special effects, it's just a thrill ride from start to finish."

Lucy Lawless as Lucretia in Spartacus: Blood and Sand.

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SECOND CUP

Cowell to produce a single to help victims in post-quake Haiti

MUSIC TV mogul Simon Cowell said Thursday he would produce a charity single to benefit victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

The American Idol and X-Factor judge said he was asked by British Prime Minister Gordon Brown to help with the relief effort.

Performers have yet to be chosen, but may include British singers Susan Boyle, Leona Lewis and Cheryl Cole, Cowell said.

"I don't know who's available, but I will get a record out within seven to 10 days," he said. The goal is to raise as much money as possible in a short period of time, he said.

Brown said the government would exempt the single from sales tax so more money would go to Haiti.

"Simon Cowell can make a huge amount of money to help the people of Haiti," Brown said.

The British government and many private agencies are sending large aid shipments to the stricken Caribbean nation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

George Stroumboulopoulos

Canadian Haiti benefit to run on Canuck star power

BENEFIT Some of Canada's biggest stars including Celine Dion, James Cameron, Michael J. Fox and the Tragically Hip will be taking part in a multi-network benefit for Haiti Friday night.

CBC, CTV and Global Television will broadcast Canada for Haiti at 7 p.m. ET and PT.

Film stars who have signed on include Jason Reitman, Ryan Reynolds, William Shatner, Rachelle Lefevre, Joshua Jackson, Pamela Anderson, Eugene Levy, Norman Jewison, Tom Jackson, Will Arnett and Sandra Oh.

TV personalities Brent Butt, Hugh Dillon, Mike Holmes, Rick Mercer and Alex Trebek will appear.

Musicians Justin Bieber, Nelly Furtado, Sarah McLachlan, K'naan, Barenaked Ladies, Simple Plan, David Foster, Chantal Kreviazuk, Raine Maida and Measha Brueggergosman are on board.

Humanitarian Craig Kielburger and star athletes Wayne Gretzky and Steve Nash will participate, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Gov. Gen. Michaelle Jean will have special messages for Canadians.

The commercial-free show will be hosted by Cheryl Hickey, Ben Mulroney and George Stroumboulopoulos.

Donations collected during the broadcast will go to a number of non-profit organizations including the Canadian Red Cross Society, Care Canada, Free the Children, Oxfam Canada and UNICEF Canada.

Immediately following the show, the U.S. benefit Hope for Haiti Now will air on the same networks and on MTV, MuchMusic and National Geographic Channel.

The two-hour special will be hosted by George Clooney.

Keith Urban, Kid Rock and Sheryl Crow plan to perform a song together, as will Bono, the Edge, Jay-Z and Rihanna.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

More acts added to U.S. telethon

- Beyonce and Madonna have been added as performers taking part in Friday's multi-network Hope for Haiti Now telethon, and Denzel Washington, Brad Pitt, Leonardo DiCaprio and former president Bill Clinton are among the other participants.
- A statement released Thursday said Beyonce would perform from London, and Madonna from New York City. The list of musical performers already includes such heavyweights as Bruce Springsteen, Alicia Keys, Stevie Wonder, Taylor Swift, Justin Timberlake and Keith Urban.
- People can start donating even before the start of the 8 p.m. EST concert via phone and text.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Harvey: new Family Feud host
The TV game show Family Feud is getting a new referee. Series producer FremantleMedia North America said comedian Steve Harvey will take over as host from John O'Hurley when the syndicated show begins its new season next fall. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Going Out

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Kitchen Nightmares Season 3

TV Sloppy restaurateurs, take cover. Chef Gordon Ramsay is back for another round of sniffing out rogue eateries and tongue-lashing their staff into serving up better fare. Premieres Tuesday on Fox. Check local listings for time.

2 Sundance Film Festival

FEST So what if it takes place in faraway Utah? If you are a film fan, you will be keeping an eye on this indie showcase. Howl (starring James Franco as Allen Ginsberg) and Restrepo (a documentary on Afghanistan) open the fest this year. There's plenty of Canadian fare too, including Grown Up Movie Star and Splice, featuring Sarah Polley.

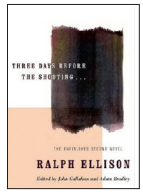
3 Dark Void

GAME The jetpack's alive and well. In Capcom's new sci-fi title, humans battle aliens in an alternate world with a little help from Nikola Tesla's uplifting invention. The game flies high on the strength of its aerial battles, which takes the find-cover-then-shoot style of Gears of War into the third dimension.

4 Creation

FILM You could go to theatres for Extraordinary Measures (if you are eyeing The Tooth Fairy there is little hope for you) this week. But you'd probably be better served with this little film about Charles Darwin and how his evolutionary ideas took their toll on his family. Starring real life husband and wife Paul Bettany and Jennifer Connelly.

5 Three Days Before The Shooting: Ralph Ellison



BOOK When the acclaimed African-American author (Invisible Man) died in 1994, he left behind a 2,000-page unfinished manuscript. The writing was condensed to 368 pages in 1999 for the posthumous novel, Juneteenth. Finally, Modern Library is putting things right by publishing the mammoth work in its entirety.

6 Transference: Spoon

ALBUM They were listed as Metacritic's most acclaimed band of the decade. They even made it to the Top 10 with their last album, Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga. Heck, can you even call the Austin, Tex., band indie any more? But they might just reclaim their alt-rock status with their latest effort – an off-kilter take on their own perfect-pop template.

7 SAG Awards

SHOW Perhaps the only Avatar-free awards gala you'll see this year. The Screen Actor's Guild honours its members for their thespian skills tomorrow with Inglourious Basterds, Precious and Up In The Air leading the race with three nominations each.

Mix of Six

Soundasaurus Experimental Sound and Media Festival
When: Friday & Saturday
Where: Engineered Air Theatre
A mixture of music, dinosaurs and multi-media takes the stage.

Banff Mountain Film Festival world Tour – Calgary Edition
When: Until Sunday
Where: Rozsa Centre
Visit mountainfilm.ca.

Real Life by Ron Mueck and Guy Ben-Ner
When: Friday & Saturday
Where: Glenbow Museum
A real life exhibit.

Haiti Fundraiser with Dj's
When: Friday
Where: Forum
A musical night with DJ's Reece, GSD, Mikey Da Roza, Roofeo, Csik and more for Haiti.

Dog Adopt-a-Thon
When: Saturday
Where: Bay D, 2020 32 Ave NE
Presented by little Mutts Rescue. Visit littlemuttsrescue.org for Dogaholics.

CPO presents Dvorak's Heroic Cello with Alban Gerhardt
When: Friday
Where: Jack Singer Concert Hall
More symphonies from the city's philharmonic orchestra.

Entertainment in brief

PEOPLE A luxury real estate auction company reports that Cher's Hawaii home overlooking the Pacific Ocean has been sold to an Arizona buyer for $8.7 million US. Concierge Auctions said Thursday that the home was one of five Big Island residences auctioned for a total of $19.4 million. The firm had estimated Cher's one-third-hectare property was worth between $8 million and $12 million. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Author Quarrington loses cancer battle

OBIT Paul Quarrington, the multi-talented, award-winning Toronto author of Whale Music, has died. He was 56.

"He passed peacefully at home in Toronto in the early hours surrounded by friends and family," said a statement on his website. "It is comforting to know that he didn't suffer; he was calm and quiet holding hands with those who were closest to him."

Quarrington, who was diagnosed with an advanced form of lung cancer last year, maintained a wide-ranging creative career over the past decades as a playwright, musician, writer and filmmaker.

Writer Paul Quarrington.

He achieved perhaps his greatest success as a novelist and author.

He won the Governor General's Literary Award for English-language fiction in 1989 for Whale Music, which Penthouse magazine called "the best novel written about rock 'n' roll'"upon its release.

He also won the Stephen Leacock Award for humour and the Canada Reads competition for King Leary.

Two of his more recent books — 2008's The Ravine and 2004's Galveston — were finalists for the Scotiabank Giller Prize.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Girls are great, but boys are better

Ben Affleck is begging wife Jennifer Garner to get pregnant one more time, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The couple has two daughters, and Affleck is keen for a baby boy to complete the trio. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

RUSSELL BRAND wrestles with a moral quandary, **DANE COOK** has a confession to make, and **"WEIRD" AL YANKOVIC** solves the mystery of Jay Leno's poor performance.

@rustyrockets If I force my cat to have sex with another cat am I an accomplice to rape? If so where does this leave dog-breeders?

@danecook I never took steroids but @ the height of my wiffle ball career I drank a Jolt cola & downed a fun dip 2 give me a lil edge up.

@alyankovic Ah, I get it now. Jay's been doing a 5-year-long Andy Kaufman-esque prank. Hilarious! METRO WORLD NEWS

Not a slice, but a scar

WHAT SORT OF SURGERIES DO YOU HAVE FOR INJURIES OF THE INNER ARM? Lindsay Lohan has dismissed allegations she has been self-harming to cope with spiralling depression, insisting she is in a "wonderful place mentally, physically and spiritually," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Mean Girls star sparked fears for her health after she was photographed with a red scratch on her inner arm earlier this month. But she insists the mark is years old — and she's urging internet bloggers to stop speculating about her personal life because she's never been happier.

She tells gossip website PerezHilton.com, "I've had that scar on my arm for a very long time now — it's funny it's just being noticed.

"I had surgery a while ago for an injury I had when I was younger, nothing having to do with depression or anything of the sort. Now back off, people! There are more important world issues to focus on!"

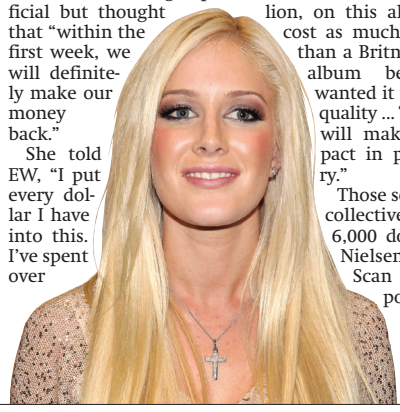
The star, who split from her on-and-off-again girlfriend Samantha Ronson last year, was photographed embracing the 29-year-old during an event at L.A. fashion boutique Church in West Hollywood on Monday night. METRO WORLD NEWS

Her new album is called Superficial

ART IMITATING LIFE? LIFE IMITATING ART? ART? LIFE? WHAT AM I SAYING? Heidi Montag's debut album may have set a record — just not a good one, us-magazine.com reports. In its first week of release, The Hills star's album, Superficial, has sold less than 1,000 copies, according to Nielsen Soundscan.

In fact, industry sources tell usmagazine.com that the album has sold only 658 downloads to date.

This is likely upsetting news for the reality star, who told Entertainment Weekly last week that she went broke making Superficial but thought that "within the first week, we will definitely make our money back."



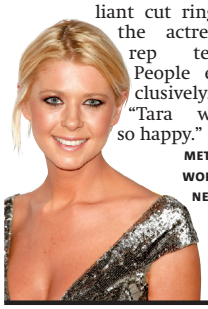
She told EW, "I put every dollar I have into this. I've spent over $1 million, almost $2 million, on this album. It's cost as much or more than a Britney Spears album because I wanted it to be that quality ... The songs will make an impact in pop history."

Those songs have collectively sold 6,000 downloads, Nielsen SoundScan also reports. METRO WORLD NEWS

'Tara was so happy'

ALTHOUGH YOU COULDN'T REALLY TELL BY LOOKING AT HER FACE Tara Reid and boyfriend Michael Axtmann, 34, were having dinner in Los Angeles on Monday night when Axtmann asked for something not on the menu, Reid's hand in marriage, people.com reports.

"Michael surprised Tara with a beautiful round brilliant cut ring," the actress' rep tells People exclusively. "Tara was so happy." METRO WORLD NEWS



This is Mischa Barton's brain ...

THIS IS MISCHA BARTON'S BRAIN NOT ON DRUGS Mischa Barton is returning to television — for one episode, at least — with a guest spot on Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. But the former O.C. star is reportedly making life difficult for her new co-workers.

Sources tell Radar Online that Barton couldn't get any of her lines memorized, forcing the crew to spend all day on her scene. "She only had seven lines, seven!" a source says.

"Each time she would mess up, she would forget her lines and Mariska (Hargitay) kept prompting her and saying, 'It's your line, Mischa.'" METRO WORLD NEWS

From alleged assault to hospital-bed hand holding

WHAT'S THAT I HEAR? OH, IT'S A QUICK CHANGE OF TUNE Charlie Sheen has been allowed to visit his wife while she is in hospital with pneumonia, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

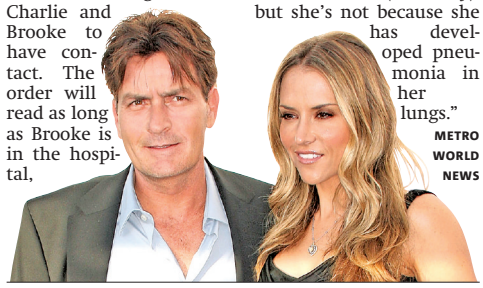
The actor's restraining order — which was put in place following his alleged assault on Brooke Mueller on Christmas Day — was altered by Pitkin County District Judge James Boyd to allow him to visit his spouse while she is being treated at Los Angeles' Sherman Oaks Hospital.

Mueller's lawyer Yale Galanter — who confirmed the emergency ruling had been passed — said, "The judge did sign an order allowing Charlie and Brooke to have contact. The order will read as long as Brooke is in the hospital, Charlie can see her."

The changes were made after his 32-year-old wife — who he has 10-month-old twin sons Bob and Max with — fell seriously ill yesterday.

Her mother Moira Fiore explained to E! News, "Brooke had to have emergency surgery to have her wisdom tooth extracted. It became infected. The infection spread and now she has pneumonia in both lungs."

Brooke was admitted to the medical centre after suffering from a fever of 105 degrees. Her attorney said, "Brooke is still in the hospital. She's doing OK but she's not doing great. We thought there was a possibility she was going to be released (Thursday), but she's not because she has developed pneumonia in her lungs." METRO WORLD NEWS



Pampering mini P. Diddy

LUCKILY, HE'S HAVING A NORMAL CHILDHOOD P. Diddy is hosting a Prince of New York-theme 16th birthday party for his son, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The rap superstar's son Justin — his child with his high school sweetheart, designer Misa Hylton-Brim — reached the landmark age in December and now Diddy is organizing him a special star-studded bash, which will be filmed for MTV show My Super Sweet 16. The party will take place at a New York nightclub on Saturday night and Chris Brown will be performing.

A source told the New York Post newspaper, "The club will be decorated with images from the New York skyline. "Diddy will perform with his band, Diddy-Dirty Money."

The A-List guest list have been told not to bring a gift but make a donation to the Haiti fund to help earthquake victims. METRO WORLD NEWS

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Sunday Mostly cloudy -6 C / -12 C

BREAKFAST TELEVISION

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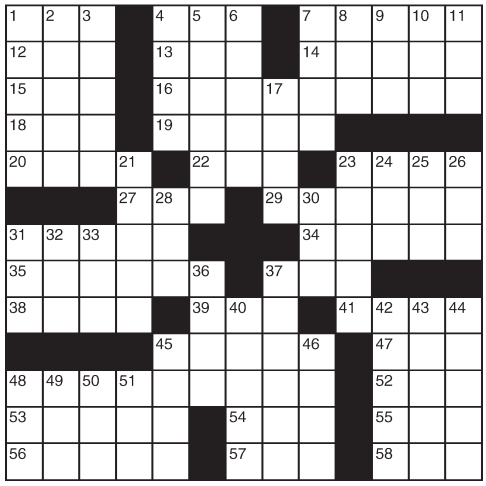
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta." **WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.**

Take Five



ACROSS

1 Scenery chewer
4 Resort
7 Wimbledon surface
12 Chicken-king link
13 Stolen
14 Proportion
15 Old soldier
16 Henny Youngman's repertoire
18 Make up your mind
19 Hatred
20 Bistro name starter, often
22 Type measures
23 Movie pig
27 "— Town"
29 Cheap
31 Track legend Jesse
34 Sports venue
35 Requiring bi-colored glasses
37 "CSI" evidence
38 Fly catcher?
39 — Today
41 Opening day?
45 Memorable mission
47 Illustrations
48 Bluff
52 Dove's call
53 Bring the meal
54 Funnyman DeLuise
55 Pump up the volume
56 Words to live by
57 Officeholders
58 Existed

DOWN

1 Devastation
2 Hebrew letter
3 Photo finish
4 "Get outta here!"
5 Mull over
6 Had a home-cooked meal
7 Somber
8 Operated
9 Goddess of foolhardiness
10 Madam's counterpart
11 "Mayday!"
17 A deadly sin
21 Like urban land
23 Powdered cleaning agent
24 Copper head?
25 Crib
26 Timetable abbr.
28 Work with
30 Ashen
31 Mel of Cooperstown
32 Personal question?
33 Historic time
36 Lackluster
37 Variety of plum
40 Riyadh resident
42 Showy parrot
43 Bakery lure
44 Subway stations
45 Kind of hairdo
46 Resistance units
48 Radio watchdog org.
49 Rowing need
50 Salt Lake City athlete
51 Scarlet

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

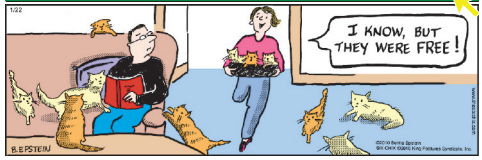
5	2						9	7
			5		8			
6		8				1		5
		4	6		3	9		
	3						6	
		2	9		4	7		
2		9				6		4
			8		1			
8	5						1	9

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

2	4	1	5	7	9	8	3	6
7	6	9	2	8	3	4	5	1
3	8	5	4	1	6	2	7	9
8	9	4	1	2	7	5	6	3
6	3	7	8	9	5	1	4	2
5	1	2	6	3	4	7	9	8
9	2	3	7	4	1	6	8	5
4	5	8	9	6	2	3	1	7
1	7	6	3	5	8	9	2	4

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

Thai Pork Patties with Bok Choy

INGREDIENTS:

4 scallions, finely chopped
1 lb (500 g) lean ground pork
1 1/2 tsp (7 ml) Thai green curry paste
2 tsp (10 mL) lemon grass in oil
1 egg white
2 tbsp (25 mL) Canola oil
7 oz (200 g) bok choy, sliced lengthwise
6 oz (175 g) oyster mushrooms, sliced
3/4 cup (175 ml) coconut milk
1 tsp (5 ml) fish sauce
1 tbsp (15 ml) sesame seeds

METHOD:

1. Mix scallions, pork, curry paste, lemon grass and egg white until evenly bound together, pressing mixture firmly with back of mixing spoon.
2. Divide mixture into 12, then shape into patties, flattening with your fingers.
3. Heat 1 tbsp (15 mLl oil in heavy-based frying pan and fry patties, turning once, 8-10 minutes or until golden brown and thoroughly cooked.
4. While patties are frying, heat a wide frying pan or wok with remaining oil and add bok choy and mushrooms. Stir-fry over high heat 2-3 minutes to soften.
5. Stir coconut milk and fish sauce into vegetables, bring to boil; simmer 1 minute. Serve pork patties with bok choy and coconut mixture, sprinkled with sesame seeds. **SERVES 4**

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Sometimes you don't tell loved ones how much they mean to you as often as you should but you'll make up for it today.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You must be extra careful what you allow yourself to think over the next 24 hours because your imagination is very powerful at the moment.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You can ask almost anything of anyone today and it won't be refused. It will be easy for you to persuade friends and rivals to give you what you need.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
There are some strong emotions about at the moment and if you are not careful you could get swept away on a tide of excess sentiment.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You will say or do something outrageous today — and you will get away with it. You will manage, just, to keep this side of turning people against you.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
The only danger today is that you will allow someone to persuade you to buy something that you cannot really afford.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
No effort will be too much for you over the next few days. It does not matter how lofty your goal may be you will reach it with ease.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You will know instinctively if what you are being told is the truth or a fabrication — and you won't hesitate to cut a deceiver out of your life.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Someone needs your help and is silently pleading for you to step in and rescue them. You won't let them down.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You will get the chance to make some powerful new friends today and over the weekend, and you are not the sort to turn down an opportunity like that.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
So many things will go right today it's almost as if you have someone "up there" on your side making sure everything falls into place.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
There is every possibility that you will be lucky financially today. Most likely an investment you made a long time ago will pay off at last.

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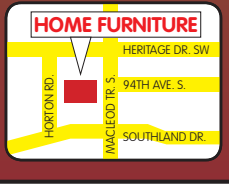
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